

**From:** Linda Logan

**Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2016 3:57 PM

**CC:** Brenda Carter

**Subject:** 2016 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in Columbus  
December 15-17, 2016 Opportunity to Meet Kerri Walsh Jennings

December 8, 2016

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, I want to take this opportunity to personally invite you to attend the 2016 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in Columbus December 15-17, 2016.

Over the past 18 months, our team has been working to ensure the experience in Columbus is a memorable one for the participating teams, fans, media and coaches attending. Volleyball is important to Columbus and we want to show our visitors our passion and commitment to the sport.

The Championship will bring an estimated 10 million dollars in direct visitor spending, attracting more than 36,000 fans to Nationwide Arena and will be broadcasted nationally on ESPN. The impact of this event is extremely valuable for Central Ohio residents.

**Exclusive Opportunity to Meet Kerri Walsh Jennings**

*You have an opportunity to purchase tickets (\$70 per person for both days) and be invited to an exclusive VIP event with three-time Olympic medalist Kerri Walsh Jennings on **Saturday, December 17** at 5:30pm at the Greater Columbus Convention Center Union Station Ballroom. Kerri will speak to the group and provide photo and autograph opportunities to those in attendance.*

We hope you'll join us in working to set the NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship attendance record. Please let me know if you are interested in this unique opportunity.

Thank you for your support as we continue to bring events such as this one to the city and transform Columbus into one of the world's best sports destinations. RSVP by 10am on Tuesday, December 13 to Brenda Carter at 614-221-6174 or [bcarter@columbusports.org](mailto:bcarter@columbusports.org).

Sincerely,

Linda Shetina Logan  
Executive Director

## Greater Columbus Sports Commission



**From:** Albert Thompson

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 1:02 PM

**To:** jim.lynch@governor.ohio.gov

**CC:** amiller@dispatch.com; beth.hansen@governor.ohio.gov;  
michael.duchesne@governor.ohio.gov; trevor.johnson@governor.ohio.gov;  
emily.kaylor@governor.ohio.gov; jim.wasil@governor.ohio.gov;  
wayne.struble@governor.ohio.gov; chris.smyke@governor.ohio.gov;  
alex.thomas@governor.ohio.gov; diane.brey@governor.ohio.gov;  
chris.brock@governor.ohio.gov; jennifer.davis@governor.ohio.gov;  
michael.grodhaus@governor.ohio.gov; shelly.hoffman@governor.ohio.gov;  
emmalee.kalmbach@governor.ohio.gov; news@footballfoundation.com;  
news@lnpnews.com; news@phillyburbs.com; brent@arnoldexpo.com;  
matllorz@rrcol.com; sara\_mabry@casey.senate.gov; ajohnson@dispatch.com;  
BAGianforcaro@ohioauditor.gov; ogu@ohioauditor.gov  
**Subject:** Asking Ohio Governor Kasich to immediately rebuke Arnold Fit Expo over steroid use

**Attachments:** 20160930\_112024 (1) (1).jpg; 20160930\_112124 (1).jpg;  
20161003\_153734 (1) (1).jpg; statue07-bjp-11.jpg; statue07-bjp-10.jpg

To: Jim Lynch and the staff that supports Ohio Governor John Kasich

From: Al Thompson - Editor, Footballstories Magazine; Sports Director, Delaware Valley Radio Network, founder of POYS (Protect Our Youth from Steroids)

Date: January 24, 2017

Re: Pennsylvania Resolution 842 regarding organizations that promote steroid use including IMG and Arnold Schwarzenegger. A request for Governor Kasich to rebuke IMG and The Arnold Fitness-Sports Expo scheduled for this March.

Dear Mr. Lynch,

I am a sports journalist, but today I am writing you as an activist about an effort I am very passionate about. I am requesting Governor Kasich immediately rebuke the Arnold Fitness Expo scheduled to take place in Columbus March 2-7, 2017, plus all the organizations listed on Pennsylvania Resolution 842 that was passed May 2016 by a vote 193-0 with 13 co-sponsors.

I am the point person for an effort that has been going on since 2011. And that is to call out organizations and individuals who promote and glorify steroid use.

**The Columbus Dispatch and its former ownership, the Wolfe family, and the Columbus-area media outlets they own can only be classified as a national journalistic disgrace for the lack of even the slightest effort to let the public-at large of Columbus and Central Ohio know about the rampant steroid use at "The Arnold," particularly the Strongman Classic, its amateur strongman competitions and bodybuilding shows. From former Dispatch Editor-in-Chief Ben Marrison (now communications director for Ohio Auditor Dave Yost) to current editor Allen Miller, there have been numerous attempts to intimidate me (including some not-so-veiled threats of civil action) from**

doing what I am doing right now and that is to do everything I can to let people in your area know about the rampant steroid use at "The Arnold" and to get testing there or shut down the entire fit expo.

Last fall I was told by Miller that he would endorse a meeting with me and is editorial chief to talk about coverage of "The Arnold" and its steroid issues but I had to contact his editor after the election. I did, and Miller, and received no response.

The Dispatch was for many years an actual sponsor of "The Arnold." Made lots of money from it. According to public reports, the Wolfe family contributed six-figure amounts of money to the Kasich Super-PAC for his run at the presidency...add into this network the fact that "The Arnold" makes the city of Columbus significant revenue and even more disturbing, Schwarzenegger was considered a campaign asset to Governor Kasich.

What does all this add up to? No accountability and dead competitors.

We have had some success including convincing ESPN to drop IMG-owned "World's Strongest Man" after airing it for 21 years. That was good, but went unannounced. Current competitors have said IMG informed them I was reason ESPN dropped "World's Strongest Man" in USA.

The resolution attached is the second of two in PA non-binding legislation I co-wrote. The first passed in 2014 with then PA Representative Joe Hackett (he has since gone back to being a detective since then) sponsoring it.

The second resolution I worked on with PA State Representative Mike Vereb who sponsored the resolution. Mike has since left office (this past November). I am working with Mike to get another State Rep to take over as sponsor for this year's resolution.

The new resolution expanded to 18 names (from three) and names IMG Worldwide (owns "World's Strongest Man") and "The Arnold" Fit Expo of Columbus, Ohio - owned and operated by Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Arnold is referenced intentionally five different ways by us. None of these events test for steroids. IMG Worldwide and the Arnold have refused to test their competitors each year.

I have tracked nine Americans alone who have died from competing on these shows over about a 13-year period directly or in their qualifying system. There are literally hundreds of these qualifiers every year in USA.

Mike Jenkins - who I knew personally - a national champion football player (JMU) - who got involved with strongman and won the "The Arnold" in 2012, and appeared in the finals of "World's Strongest Man" three times ...he was on TV (600 million homes according to IMG) year round globally, died on Thanksgiving Day 2013 of a massive heart episode. PA Coroner Graham Hetrick certified on his death certificate he died of steroid poisoning...we believe Mike was first serious athlete to have steroids listed as cause of death. Not one word of it by The Dispatch or the AP Wire Service. Associated Press has a business *partnership* with IMG. Please see link..."joint venture" reference is in second paragraph. We believe the AP-IMG partnership is illegal.



<http://img.com/services/media-distribution.aspx>

Please read my recent article about the many contradictions between the academic community, sports community, the government and how it affects our student-athletes.

<http://www.footballstories.com/ped-policies-a-contradiction-for-decades/>

World's Strongest Man was dropped by ESPN in the spring of 2013 but was picked up by a smaller sports channel, CBS Sports.

Its audience in TV has been dramatically reduced ... "World's Strongest Man" has been crippled...dropped by ESPN, condemned in two states and has seen its owner, IMG, lose business from about 12 Universities....If you are wondering there is still no drug testing, so have we...elected officials, law enforcement, DEA agents and myself believe there has been something much darker going on between Schwarzenegger, IMG and "Big Pharm" for decades...and if what we believe is true, our work to end these shows is even that much more important than ever.

The events listed in the resolution have hundreds of qualifiers all over America. These small events have an equally disturbing "anything goes" policy with regards to steroids and other illegal PEDs. These events, in many cases act as trade shows for young student-athletes to be introduced to the dark side of steroid use.

I have also tracked about 12 Universities I wrote (out of dozens) who have dropped IMG as their marketing agent over steroids policy. None will announce why...just "we couldn't a deal done" type answers.

I ran an annual major strongman competition in Philadelphia for 10 years and gave up in 2012 for a number of reasons including drug use and growing fatality rate. It was supposed to be "guy" event to promote Footballstories. It was a mistake, but it got me involved with this effort.

During an Eagles practice in August, I met Senator Bob Casey and told him about this effort. He seemed very interested in getting involved. I have a number of phone meetings with his staff. With the election over hopefully he can make some time to help.

Here is a portion of Representative Joe Hackett's press conference the day the resolution passed in March 2014. I am standing behind him (goatee).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyrAs8IPc5I>

Here are links to the Mike Jenkins news story about the results of his autopsy and coroner Graham Hetrick's findings with regards to Mr. Jenkins poisoning himself to death using steroids. Mr. Jenkins died on Thanksgiving Day 2013.

<http://taylorhooton.org/mike-jenkins-death-by-steroids/>

[http://cumberlandlink.com/news/local/capital\\_region/coroner-links-death-of-strongman-michael-jenkins-to-steroid-use/article\\_41b3917a-ee71-11e3-aa8a-0019bb2963f4.html](http://cumberlandlink.com/news/local/capital_region/coroner-links-death-of-strongman-michael-jenkins-to-steroid-use/article_41b3917a-ee71-11e3-aa8a-0019bb2963f4.html)

The writer who put this short piece together on cumberlink.com was kind about the circumstances surrounding the morning of Mr. Jenkins death.

During our interview session, Hetrick told me Mr. Jenkins was still alive when paramedics arrived. The coroner told me that Mr. Jenkins heart was so damaged that there was nothing they could do to save his life. He died with paramedics standing over him.

Hetrick told me Mr. Jenkins wife handed over her husband's vials containing steroids and syringes to police after Mr. Jenkins passed.

Hetrick told me Mr. Jenkins, in addition large amounts of anabolic steroids commonly used by humans, he was also ingesting steroids intended for use on horses and large animals that he had ordered from veterinarians.

That is just an idea of the length Mike Jenkins and other competitors will do to abuse themselves in the name of achieving fame. All just fine with IMG officials. This behavior is being passed down to our young student-athletes.

And IMG Worldwide plus individuals like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jim Lorimer (and his son), Dione Wessels, Willie Wessels and Dr. Terry Todd have been and continue to be perfectly fine with their competitor's extreme abuse of themselves so they can line their own pockets while paying their competitor's peanuts for putting their lives on the line.

We don't know how many 13-14-year old boys are being influenced to get involved with strongman and end up drug addicts by watching the "World's Strongest Man" (now on minor cable CBS Sports Network) and "the Arnold" each year, but we believe it is significant.

In this segment Dauphin County (PA) talks with me after reading the 2014 Resolution (No. 626) that singled out "World's Strongest Man" (owned by IMG), "The Arnold," and "America's Strongest Man" for their lack of testing for steroids, rampant steroid use and high fatality rate. The Resolution rebuked/condemned all three organizations by the PA House of Representatives by a vote of 203-0 and 28 co-sponsors.

He remarks at how strongman promoters are no different than street drug dealers.

<https://youtu.be/zkkLhDE5Vik>

It is my hope Governor Kasich is a big enough man to admit the mistake he made endorsing "The Arnold." It is my hope he will issue or make a statement demanding drug testing for the strongman shows as well as the bodybuilding. When/if Governor Kasich does that he and you will see how determined Schwarzenegger, IMG and the rest of the people and organizations are determined to keep their drugs and continue to promote and grow "Steroid Nation."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

Al Thompson  
Founder - POYS

Protect Our Youth from Steroids.  
267-254-4614

\*\*\*\*\*

Forbes Magazine website article on first steroids resolution.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2013/12/17/pennsylvania-lawmaker-hoping-to-rebuke-imgs-worlds-strongest-man-competition/>

\*\*\*\*\*

IMG College President Ben Sutton who when asked about IMG's pro steroid policy a few months ago with regards to World's Strongest Man, he issued this statement:

"I have no first-hand knowledge of this event or facts related to it, nor does it operate anywhere near or under our purview. I am confident you know that within IMG Worldwide, IMG College is but one of many divisions of our business and we are laser-focused on all things college and nothing else. No one that I know of either in our subsidiary nor that I have met anywhere in our company supports the use of performance enhancing drugs. In fact, in my 30 year career in and around college athletics, you would find that all three of the organizations I've been privileged to work in and around have a clear record of no tolerance with regard to this and many other issues deemed not in the best interest of amateur sports. And while you are free to contact any schools with whom we work, I am confident you will not find anyone in our space who believes that IMG College supports and/or promotes the use of performance enhancing drugs--in fact, quite the opposite. "

As you can read, Mr. Sutton does not deny the situation exists, but simply distanced his division from the rest of IMG. At least he talked about it. We have not been able to get IMG corporate, who was also contacted by Forbes Magazine and YES TV Network after they ran this story on their website, to comment at all. A similar statement was issued by the IMG Academy in Florida.

This is the email I got from Justin Harrison - senior official with FHSAA with IMG's response to inquiries about IMG's lack of steroid policy with regards to "World's Strongest Man."

Justin Harrison  
Assistant Executive Director for Athletic Services

From: Justin Harrison <jharrison@fhsaa.org>  
To: Albert Thompson <athom1790@aol.com>  
Sent: Tue, Jun 3, 2014 7:33 am  
Subject: RE: IMG Worldwide's steroid policy  
Good Morning Albert,

We received a response from the IMG Academy concerning your inquiry. Here is their response:

IMG Academy operates separately and we have no involvement with the event referenced in the email you forwarded.  
We have a Drug, Substance and Alcohol policy that we enforce. The parents of all students

are required, prior to admission, to give authorization for drug testing (including steroids). Given our focus on helping our student-athletes protect their future collegiate eligibility, we are probably the strictest school in the state in this area.

Sincerely,

Justin Harrison  
Assistant Executive Director for Athletic Services  
FHSAA  
(352) 372-9551 x 180

Al Thompson note: It was disturbing there was no mention of health reasons for IMG Academy's drug policy...it should be No. 1 reason for having a drug policy. Heath not mentioned at all.

\*\*\*\*\*

Here are links to other articles about IMG , "The Arnold" and the Resolution.

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20130&cosponId=13792>

<http://www.pennsnews.com/2014/03/hackett-resolution-condemning-performance-enhancing-drugs-passes-house/#.UyKU1D9dVac>

<http://www.examiner.com/article/pennsylvania-state-house-passes-resolution-condemning-peds>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2013/12/17/pennsylvania-lawmaker-hoping-to-rebuke-imgs-worlds-strongest-man-competition/>

<http://www.ironmind-forum.com/forum/training/strongman/2233-espn-and-steroids-the-great-hypocrisy>

<http://www.footballstories.com/ray-lewis-ravens-coaches-weigh-in-on-worlds-strongest-man-drugs-and-americas-youth/>

Below are links to a TV show that aired in May in Pennsylvania. A national network is producing a show (owned by Forbes) about IMG and the Resolution. I will send you broadcast information about that show when I learn it. I have already taped my segment at the Forbes Magazine building in New York.

Part one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KySz20ZTqQ&feature=youtu.be>

Part two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z121bYnK640&feature=youtu.be>

Part three: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu12GUtNJpw&feature=youtu.be>

Part four of four: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGsg5IzxP3I&feature=youtu.be>

- 19 challenge, and Strongman Champions League, and
- 18 Strongman Corporation; Strongman Corporation; Olympia Strongman
- 17 International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness; American
- 16 Strongman; Westside Barbell; Joe Weider Enterprises;
- 15 Strongman; International Powerlifting Association; Starting
- 14 events sponsored by North American Strongman; United States
- 13 Arnold Amateur Strongman World Championship; and other similar
- 12 events; "Arnold Strongman Classic," "America's Strongest Man,"
- 11 Arnold Sports Festival; "Arnold Classic," "Arnold Fitness
- 10 Competition," and such as "World's Strongest Man," owned by IMG,
- 9 and other, especially those participating in strongman
- 8 events, or as doping, or doping among some professional
- 7 athletes, or as performance-enhancing drugs, commonly
- 6 known as "steroids," or performance-enhancing drugs,
- 5 and other, to enhance their performance and their ability to
- 4 compete in strongman events, and other, to enhance their
- 3 performance and their ability to compete in strongman
- 2 events, or as doping, or doping among some professional
- 1 athletes, or as performance-enhancing drugs, commonly

HOUSE RESOLUTION  
NO. 842  
2016  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE NO. 3246

10/1/16

HOUSE NO. 842, 2016, HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 842

20160HR0842PN3740

[illegible]



House of Representatives



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

U.S. House, May 19, 1944.

Mr. [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]

Dear Mr. [Name]:

I am very glad to hear from you and to learn that you are interested in the work of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I am sure that you will find the work of the Committee very interesting and important.

The Committee is currently studying the [Topic] and will report to the House on [Date]. I am sure that your interest in this matter will be of great help to the Committee.

Sincerely,  
[Signature]

Very truly yours,  
[Signature]

Enclosed for you are [Number] copies of the [Document] which the Committee has prepared for the House.

I am sure that you will find this information of great interest and value.

Respectfully,  
[Signature]

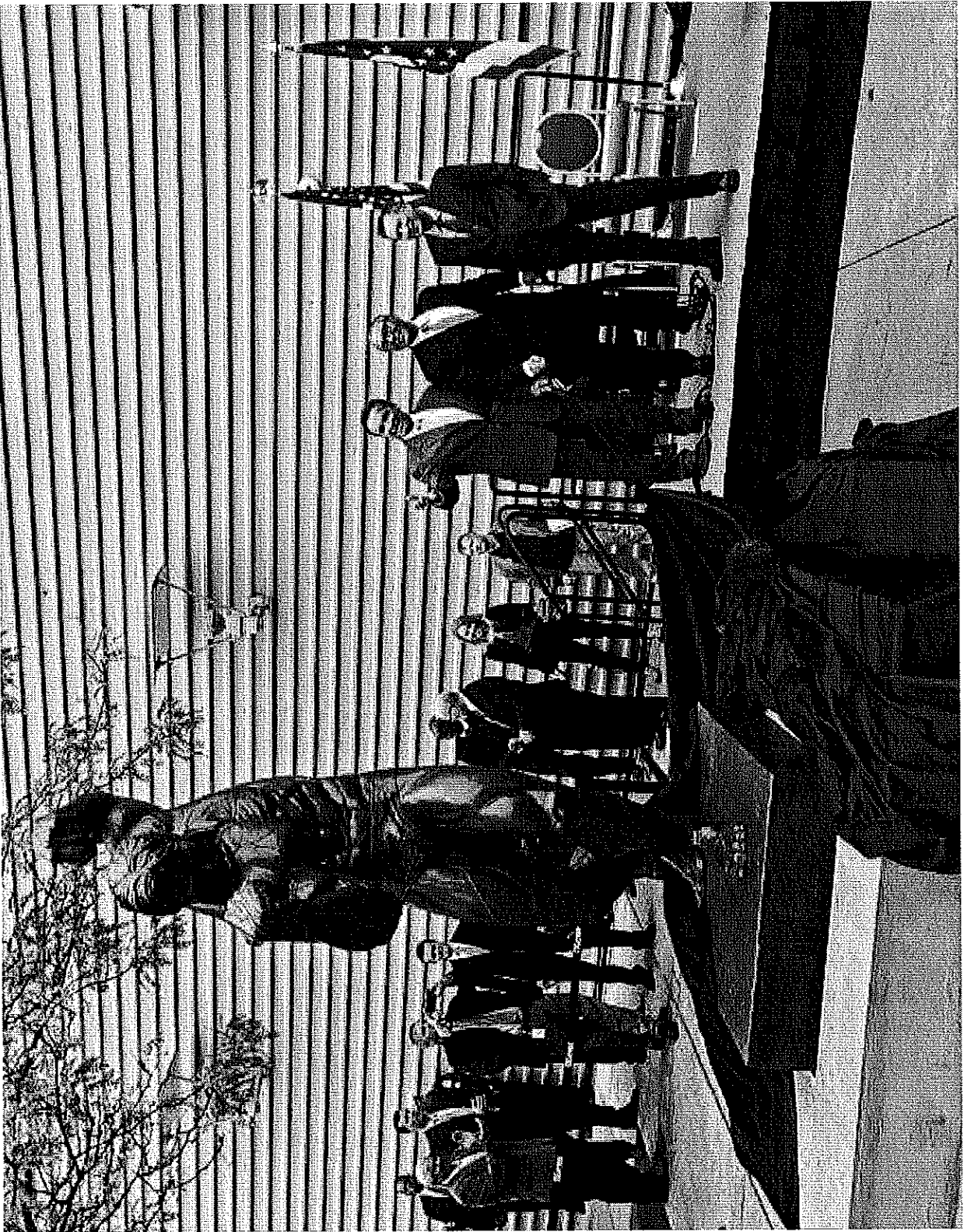
Very truly yours,  
[Signature]

Very truly yours,  
[Signature]



[Signature]







**From:** Janet Porter

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:00 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Send Heartbeat Bill "Valentines" to Congress

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

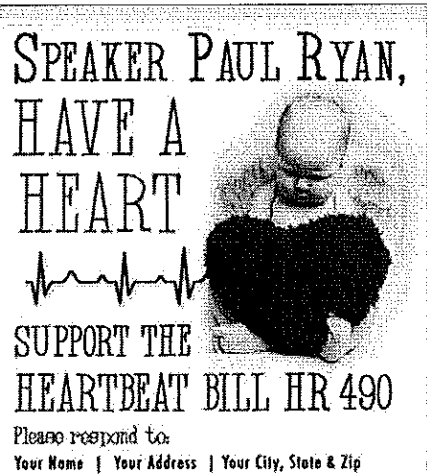


# Faith Action

*"The people who are loyal to their God shall stand firm and take action." --Daniel 11:32b (NRSV)*

**Jump Start the Federal Heartbeat Bill!**

**SEND CONGRESS  
HEARTBEAT BILL "VALENTINES"  
WITH 1 CLICK!**



With the click of a button, you can show your support for the federal Heartbeat Bill (HR 490) in a positive, easy, and effective way--with

personalized colorful cards that look like Valentines--mailed directly to their offices!



## Choose your impact!

### OPTION 1:

Send cards to Senator Mitch McConnell and every Republican on the House Judiciary Committee where the Heartbeat Bill will be heard. (25 personalized, printed, color cards, will be mailed to each office from you) \$19.95 (the charge covers printing & postage)

### OPTION 2:

Send cards to every Republican in Congress! (293 personalized, printed, color cards, will be mailed to each office from you) \$39.95 (the charge covers printing & postage)




**OPTION 3:**

Send cards to every Member of Congress! (535

personalized, printed, color

cards, will be mailed to each office

from you) \$59.95 (the charge covers printing & postage)

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,  
PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
**HEARTBEAT BILL**   
**HR 490** [HeartBeatBill.com](http://HeartBeatBill.com)

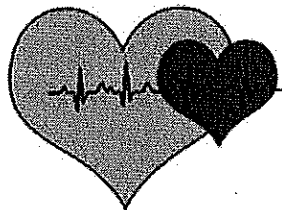
Abortion stops one heart  
and breaks another.

Please respond to:

Your Name

Your Address

Your City, State & Zip



CHAIRMAN BOB GOODLATTE,



If there's a  
Heartbeat,  
there's life!

*Please pass  
the ProLife*

**HeartBeat Bill HR490**

Please respond to:

Your Name | Your Address | Your City, State & Zip

[HeartBeatBill.com](http://HeartBeatBill.com)



It takes less than a minute to mail every member of Congress a personalized Heartbeat Bill "Valentine" asking them to support HR 490, the federal Heartbeat Bill!

Send yours today! Then, forward this to your friends who want to keep hearts beating!



Help us end abortion for  
unborn babies whose  
heartbeats can be heard

## **Federal HEARTBEAT BILL First Step to "Make America Safe Again"**



*Janet Porter joins Congressmen Steve King (R IA), Trent Franks (R, AZ), Louie Gohmert (R, TX), Scott Perry (R, PA), Don Bacon (R, NE) and other pro-life leaders at the press conference for the federal Heartbeat Bill.*

Special thanks to Heartbeat Bill sponsor Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa), and co-sponsors who spoke at the press conference: Congressmen Trent Franks (R-Arizona), Louie Gohmert (R-Texas), Scott Perry (R-Pennsylvania), and Don Bacon (R-NE). We are grateful for your leadership!

Other pro-life leaders who spoke at the press conference included Walter Weber of the American Center for Law and Justice, Rebekah Ganter, Executive Director of Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund, Father Stephen Imbarrato of Priests for Life, Rev. Patrick Mahoney of the Christian Defense Coalition, Larry Cirignano of Children First Foundation, Catherine

Glenn Folster of the Charlotte Lozier Institute, Brandi Swindoll of the Stanton Policy Center, Reagan Barklage of Students for Life, Mark Harrington of Created Equal, and post abortive mothers Rachelle Heidlebaugh and Rebecca Porter, of Operation Outcry.

***"Just days ago, I stood on the other side of this Capitol and heard President Trump promise to make America safe again. The Heartbeat Bill is the first step to make America safe again for babies whose heartbeats can be heard."***

--Janet (Folger) Porter, President, Faith2Action

Please call your Congressman (your U.S. Representative) and **ask him/her to co-sponsor HR 490, the federal Heartbeat Bill, to protect unborn babies whose beating hearts can be detected:**

Congressional Switchboard:  
**202-224-3121**

***Press Conference Video:***





*Congressman Steve King leads the charge for the federal Heartbeat Bill (HR 490) in Congress.*

**[Click here for THE BILL TEXT](#)**

**Some of the News Coverage:**

[Life Site News](#), [CNS News](#), [Breitbart article](#)

, [Cleveland.com article](#), [Charisma](#), [KGLO News](#), [KFAB](#), [Pilot Tribune](#), [Independent](#), [Iowa State Daily](#), [LiveActionNews](#), [The Global Dispatch](#), [The Christian Times](#), [The Daily Iowan](#)



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**From:** Albert Thompson

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:40 AM

**To:** Dave.Ward@governor.ohio.gov

**Subject:** Re: Follow up on my email about Internationals coming to compete in this year's Arnold strongman classic

**Attachments:** 20161003\_153734 (1) (1).jpg; 20160930\_112024 (1) (1).jpg; 20160930\_112124 (1).jpg; arnold2.jpg; Arnold\_Statue.jpg

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Completed

To: Dave Ward - Director of Constituent Affairs for Ohio Governor John Kasich

From: Al Thompson - Founder POYS (Protect Our Youth from Steroids), Sports Director WRDV Radio

Date: February 14, 2017

Re: Final comment on this email

Dear Mr. Ward,

I thank you for responding both by phone and your acknowledgement in writing about the information I sent you concerning "The Arnold" sports & fitness expo in particular the strongman shows and bodybuilding.

To be clear, these are not just my concerns.

In 2014, the vote was 203-0 with 28 co-sponsors in voting for Resolution 626.

Here is a portion of then Representative Joe Hackett's press conference the day the resolution passed in March 2014 (He names "The Arnold" in his reading of the resolution he sponsored).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyrAs8IPc5I>

Here is a link to the actual resolution (The Arnold is named in the generic form of Resolution in attachment):

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20130&cosponId=13792>

Forbes Magazine's website covered the Resolution's process but was interested in the World's Strongest Man since it was owned by IMG Worldwide. Like I said earlier, WSM was dropped by ESPN after 21 years.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2013/12/17/pennsylvania-lawmaker-hoping-to-rebuke-imgs-worlds-strongest-man-competition/>

The resolution was endorsed by the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society (PATs) and organization that represents over 3,000 certified trainers in Pennsylvania.

Hardly just my concerns.

In May 2016 the vote was 193-0 with 13 co-sponsors for a second Resolution that named "The Arnold" five different ways as a problem because of rampant steroid use at several competitions that led to deaths, including 2012 Arnold Strongman Champion Mike Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins, a Pennsylvania resident, had certified on his death certificate that his death was the result of steroid poisoning.

No changes were made in the lack of drug testing at this competition and even more disturbing, the lack of coverage by the Columbus Dispatch, then an Arnold sponsor, as well as all the Wolfe family-own media outlets was, and still is appalling.

Had there been proper coverage of Jenkins death, the resolutions and the rampant steroid use at the Arnold, you may not be in this awkward position having allowed Governor Kasich to show up and endorse the rededication of the statue of Arnold Schwarzenegger in downtown Columbus in October 2014.

My concerns? Hardly...all this normalizing of the use and trafficking of highly illegal, highly dangerous drugs by the government of Columbus and the State of Ohio not to mention the media of Columbus and Ohio should disturbing to everyone in the United States and around the world.

The Arnold is scheduled to take place in a matter of weeks. Since the Dispatch, and your other media outlets cannot be counted on to cover any of this, Governor Kasich needs to address the steroids problem at the Arnold immediately...forcing them to cover it.

The steroid crisis in America should be *everyone's* concern.

Thank you,

Al Thompson  
Founder-POYS  
Protect Our Youth from Steroids  
267-254-4614

-----Original Message-----

From: Ward, Dave <Dave.Ward@governor.ohio.gov>

To: 'Albert Thompson' <athom1790@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Feb 6, 2017 9:28 am

Subject: RE: Follow up on my email about Internationals coming to compete in this year's Arnold strongman classic

Mr. Thompson –

Thank you. We are aware of your concerns.



Dave Ward  
Director of Constituent Affairs  
Office of Ohio Governor John R. Kasich  
614-644-0932  
[Dave.Ward@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:Dave.Ward@governor.ohio.gov)  
[www.governor.ohio.gov](http://www.governor.ohio.gov)

**From:** Albert Thompson [mailto:[athom1790@aol.com](mailto:athom1790@aol.com)]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 11:46 AM

**To:** Ward, Dave

**Subject:** Follow up on my email about Internationals coming to compete in this year's Arnold strongman classic

To: Dave Ward - Director of Constituent Affairs for Ohio Governor John Kasich

From: Al Thompson - Founder POYS (Protect Our Youth from Steroids), Sports Director  
WRDV Radio

Date: February 4, 2017

Re: Forwarding you email from last week

Dear Dave,

I first want to thank you for reaching out to respond to my communication to Governor Kasich Communications Director Jim Lynch and Governor Kasich concerning the non-binding resolutions passed by the State of Pennsylvania (2014, 2016) that rebuked the Arnold Sports Festival (among many other organizations) for its lack of drug testing for its competitors in most strength events and bodybuilding, rampant steroid use by these competitors and the high fatality rate.

I hope Governor Kasich does the right thing and condemns "The Arnold" until such time that the event adopts a strict, monitored policy of testing for all illegal Performance Enhancing Drugs or is shut down completely.

Please see email I sent to Adrian Smith DHS Ice Philadelphia. I apologize if I did not copy you when I sent this email to Mr. Smith last week.

It is my second email to Mr. Smith asking the immigration community to look into blocking people from other countries who are coming here to work in an arena - like "The Arnold" - that promotes and glorifies the use and thus trafficking of illegal drugs. In this case steroids and other illegal Performance Enhancing Drugs.

After both emails, Mr. Smith has promptly responded that he is working through various government agencies to see if something can be done to send a message to Arnold

Schwarzenegger and other organizations and individuals listed on the 2016 Resolution (attached). Please feel free to confirm this with Mr. Smith.

I am also reaching out to University of Texas officials to ask why a University employee - Arnold Strongman Classic Coordinator Dr. Terry Todd - whose salary was/is at least in part paid by taxpayers is/was allowed to run a condemned strongman event...condemned for illegal drug use and thus trafficking.

Dr. Todd's Wikipedia page does list the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's resolution rebuking the Arnold Strongman event since its inception in 2002 by Dr. Todd. Dr. Todd was asked by Schwarzenegger himself to produce the strongman show.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry\\_Todd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Todd)

As I have stated in the past, the events - like "The Arnold" - listed in Resolution 842 are bad enough on their own merit. I believe the hundreds of qualifiers and the businesses that support these qualifiers are a bigger threat to our young student-athletes as they serve as an introduction to the dark world of steroid use and the potential of a life with the needle.

Developing a relationship with immigration and making those agencies aware of these events and their negative impact on student-athlete's across the country with regards to the unchecked normalization of steroid use by athletes - young and old I believe is important and will continue with or without Governor Kasich's help.

As I have also stated in the past, I look at these competitors as victims of corporate monsters who use these men as marketing materials for the Performance Enhancing Drugs industry (big pharma) for the purpose of making money at the expense of the competitors' health, and in some cases, their lives.

It is my hope that Governor Kasich will show the minimum amount of respect to its neighbor state and acknowledge these resolutions and the spirit for which they were created--the greater good for student-athletes and athletes of all ages around the country.

The next "Arnold" is scheduled to take place in a few weeks...we need a quick response. The Columbus media (Dispatch-Wolfe Family-owned media outlets) cannot be counted on to report on these resolutions. We need Governor Kasich to help now.

Thank you,

Very Truly Yours,

Al Thompson  
267-254-4614

-----Original Message-----

From: Albert Thompson <athom1790@aol.com>

To: adrian.smith <adrian.smith@ice.dhs.gov>

Sent: Mon, Jan 30, 2017 8:50 am

Subject: Internationals coming to compete in this year's Arnold strongman classic

To: Adrian Smith DHS Ice Philadelphia

220 Chestnut St # 200, Philadelphia, PA 19106

From: Al Thompson - Founder POYS (Protect Our Youth from Steroids)

Date: January 28, 2017

Re: List of international competitors who will be competing in this year's Arnold Strongman Classic

Dear Adrian,

Thank you for looking into my complaint about two international strongman competitors and the looking into the possibility of holding them up from entering our country.

Like I mentioned on the phone, this would send a message that the United States will no longer allow people to work here for the purpose of promoting the use of illegal drugs, in this case steroids.

The list below is the competitor lineup published for this year's Arnold Strongman Classic that is one of the marquee events for the Arnold Sports Festival scheduled for March 2-7, 2017.

I am asking the immigration community to look at those coming into the country to compete in the event-plus those who are coming as officials such as Iceland's Magnus Ver Magnusson - and if there are statutes in place that would prevent them from working this steroid-infested competition that has been rebuked repeatedly by the State of Pennsylvania repeatedly for its lack of testing for steroids, rampant steroid use and fatality rate.

I believe this event (and more importantly its qualifiers) has been and still is a threat to the overall well being and health of the youth of our country.

You mentioned in the past you were passing my information onto other agencies, hopefully one is the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Hafthor Bjornsson (Iceland)

Zach Hodge (USA)

Rauno Heinla (Estonia)

Mateusz Kieliskowski (Poland)

Vytautas Lelas (Lithuania)

Krzysztof Radzikowski (Poland)

Dimitar Savatinov (Bulgaria)

Zydrunas Savickas (Lithuania)

Mikhail Shvilyako (Russia)

Brian Shaw (USA)



For the record I consider these competitors as victims of corporate monsters who use these men as marketing materials for the Performance Enhancing Drugs industry for the purpose of making money at the expense of the competitors health, and in some cases, their lives.

Any help is appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

Al Thompson  
Founder-POYS  
Protect Our Youth from Steroids  
267-254-4614



- 19 Challenge, and Strongman Champions League, and
- 18 Strongman Corporation, Strongman Corporation, Olympia Strongman
- 17 International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness, American
- 16 Strongman, Westside Barbell, Joe Weider Enterprises,
- 15 Strongman International Powerlifting Association, starting
- 14 events sponsored by North American Strongman, United States
- 13 Arnold Amateur Strongman World Championships, and other similar
- 12 Expo, "Arnold Strongman Classic," "America's Strongest Man,"
- 11 Arnold Sports Festival, "Arnold Classic," "Arnold Fitness
- 10 competitions such as "World's Strongest Man" owned by IMG,
- 9 Strongman, especially those participating in Strongman
- 8 related to and doping, is rampant among some professional
- 7 athletes, posing performance enhancing drugs, commonly
- 6 known as "steroids," and performance enhancing drugs
- 5 and the use of performance enhancing drugs and their effects
- 4 on the health and safety of athletes, and the effects of
- 3 the use of performance enhancing drugs and their effects
- 2 on the health and safety of athletes, and the effects of
- 1 the use of performance enhancing drugs and their effects

HOUSE RESOLUTION  
No. 842  
2016  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

846

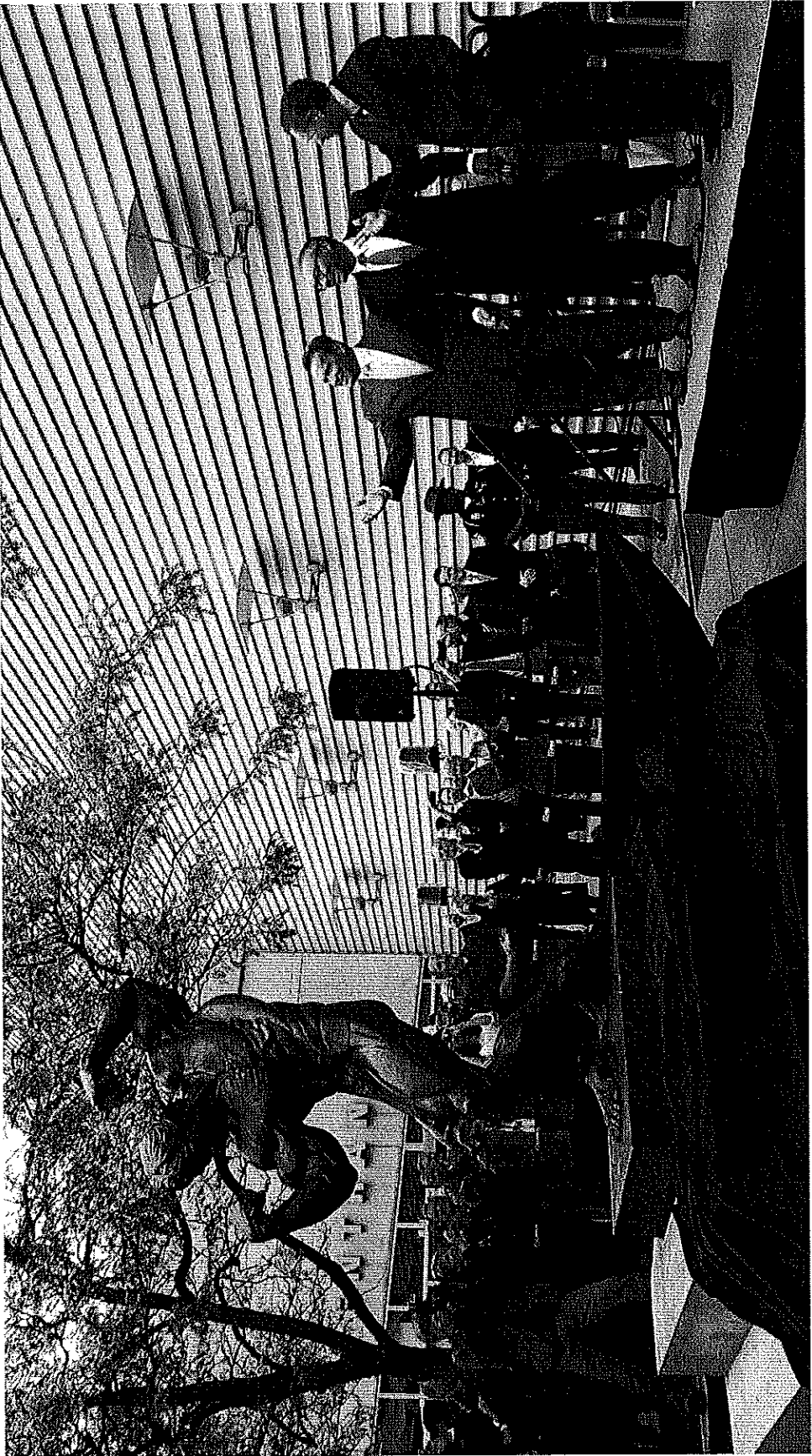
Page 1 of 2

Committee on Education and the Arts, Subcommittee on Higher Education

[illegible]







**From:** Albert Thompson

**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 9:13 AM

**To:** athom1790@aol.com

**Subject:** Equipment still not returned - complaints filed against USS officials who are Government employees

**Attachments:** 20160930\_112024 (1).jpg; 20160930\_112124.jpg; 20161003\_153734 (1).jpg; IFSA\_TAX.pdf; arnold\_agreement.pdf; 20110904235004.pdf

Attention: United States Strongman State Representatives,

I am sorry to report that I have not received any response from Rob Howe or Richard McMillan on when I can pick up my Hummer Tire Deadlift equipment that these two have held illegally for many months, that presumably still being held in the Lancaster, PA area. It needs to be released back to me immediately.

It is stolen equipment from officials - like many of you - who represent the United States Strongman federation, a federation that has been rebuked by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives because of its lack of testing for steroids, rampant steroid use and fatality rate. I believe the holding my equipment illegally is the work of USS President Willie Wessels who pulled the same stunt in 2008 with the same piece of equipment for the purpose of intimidation.

In 2008 the same Hummer Tire Deadlift was grabbed by a Wessels surrogate I had lent it to. It was an attempt by Dione and Willie Wessels to keep me from filing a federal lawsuit against the International Federation of Strength Athletes (IFSA) that was to be on behalf of several American and International strongman competitors and a freight contractor (a great friend and Philly show sponsor) who together were ripped off of millions of dollars as the result of a botched capital investment scam the Wessels, officials from "The Arnold" and "World's Strongest Man" (IMG) were all involved in from 2003-2008 (I will explain related attachments below).

The surrogate was told a similar lie...Wessels lie this time was that I never paid for it...under pressure from several strongman competitors, Wessels returned the Hummer Tire Deadlift only hours before the start of a show I ran for the City of Philadelphia at the time. This year's theft is obviously in response to USS being added to the list of rebuked strongman federations over steroid abuse.

Like in 2008, several strongman competitors have told me they contacted Willie Wessels to urge him to release my Hummer Tire Deadlift.

**For Rob Howe I realize this may a difficult thing to do. I am asking you to contact the Manheim Twp. Police Department and ask Officer Cody Lewis to contact me to set up a time and place for us to pick up the Hummer Tire Deadlift. It must be done now. We are going to apply more pressure to your federation if this illegal act continues. That also includes "The Arnold" who you represent. We also must see a drug testing policy for steroids all USS all other strongman competitions.**

This effort will not stop until the equipment is released intact back to me. This effort will continue until United States Strongman institutes a drug testing policy for steroids and all other illegal performance enhancing drugs that can be independently monitored. No one is being taken off this mailing list until this happens. No one. Call Wessels, Howe and/or McMillan if you have a complaint.

I mentioned in a previous email that United State Strongman officials who also work for the government in any capacity (police, public school teachers, coaches, firemen, military etc) could be held to a higher standard.

I have copied you on these emails to let you know what was going on...not anonymously or with a fake name.

New Hampshire United States Strongman state chair Robert Chaisson decided to mock my effort recently. He wrote "My email is my business email. My current rate is \$125 hour. With a minimum of 3 hours billed. (So you understand. If I open a email with requires my time, you will be billed three hours) I have no problem sending any unpaid invoices to collections if payment is not received in 30 days."

Robert Chaisson claims on his Facebook page he belongs to the New Hampshire National Guard.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Gregory D. Heilshorn - a New Hampshire National Guard spokesman that claim is accurate. Heilshorn wrote me back..."Robert Chaisson is a NH guardsman. He is a traditional, which means part-time: one weekend-a-month, two weeks out of the summer. The position he holds with the USSF is in his capacity as a private citizen and not as a representative of our organization."

According to other NH Guard officials, Chaisson technically may be a civilian, but he gets a government check when he serves...and that has to be respected. That he is a guardsman is why his behavior should be unacceptable.

Lt. Col. Gregory D. Heilshorn said he did not know if he could act on Chaisson's mockery or being an official for a rebuked organization that was/is singled out for its steroids policies - or lack of.

So I sent copies of his email to New Hampshire State Representatives James Spillane, Shawn Jasper, Aaron Goulette, Megan Stone, Scott McGilvray, Kevin Verville plus the office of New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu. Will anything happen? Will they act? I have no idea right now but there will be follow ups.

Regardless, Mr. Chaisson will always have a complaint file in all these offices over his association with a steroid federation and mocking an effort to curb



illegal drug use and trafficking. If Chaisson sends an invoice, it will be sent straight to these elected officials and military people.

I have also contacted sponsors of some of the other events listed on the United State Strongman website including the Autism group in Kingston, NY and the police and firemen in Quad City Iowa to let them know they are involved with a rebuked federation, rebuked for steroids. .

The longer Wessels, Rob Howe and Richard McMillan continue their illegal behavior, more events and USS officials will be scrutinized for steroids.

My conference call with Homeland Security agents last week in Philadelphia went well. All three agents said they were going to try to hold up all eight competitors plus Magnus Ver Magnusson when they try to enter the country to work at "The Arnold." If they are held up, and you want to vent, please call Willie Wessels, Howe or McMillan, not me. Even if none of this happens, the seeds are planted, your names are there. It took years to get ESPN to drop WSM...I can wait...can you?

#### **Background of strongman leadership's illegal behavior (a must read).**

In 2004, IFSA went from being an unknown strongman federation that supplied competitors to the "World's Strongest Man," to being registered in the State of Delaware as a public company with 200 million shares of stock to sell ...all completely fake...the company was registered in Delaware with an address in Utah that was actually a construction site....total fraud.

Willie and Dione Wessels represented IFSA's interests in the United States. Here is a link to a link to an old article in Ironmind that confirms their status with IFSA.

<http://ironmind.com/news/ASC-2008-Tour-Flex-Wheeler-Classic/>

This group of American traitors and international thieves included staff members of "The Arnold" (Dr. Terry Todd, Jim Lorimer and Magnus Ver Magnusson), many who are still involved with the event plus many IMG staff members (most are gone and are afraid to come back to USA like Ilkka Kinnunen and Marcel Mostert who currently run Strongman Champions League in Europe and are reported linked to organized crime there). Please see attached press release confirming Arnold's partnership with IFSA.

IFSA officials were hitting all the stock market forums and media sites trying to hawk their bogus, worthless, illegal stock...not one person bought it. While that was going on, IFSA, with the Wessels on board, signed about 95 pro strongman competitors world-wide to equally bogus contracts we believe added up to over \$3 million. Each competitor was given a fraction of the money up front...seed money. They were never paid for these contracts.

After no one bought their stock, with no sponsors, seed money gone, competitors screaming for their money, taxes mounting and pressure from the South Korean government's tourism bureau (IFSA took money from South Korea to hold their 2007 World Championship there complete with a promised competitor prize purse of \$140,000 which they did not have), IFSA was up to its neck in alligators. What did these cowards do?

In September 2007, IFSA officials hired my friend and sponsor - an international freight forwarder based in Philadelphia- to airlift 25,000 pounds of strongman equipment from England to Seoul, South Korea knowing all along they had no money to pay for it. Also knowing I was fighting for my life with a severe case of Crohn's disease. The idea was to give my friend this freight, and when it landed, they assumed he would not release it without payment for the enormous freight charges...they could blame my friend and me for no one getting paid since we had all their expensive customized strongman equipment and would not release it.

They were wrong. My friend realized he had been suckered into this, released the freight and they had to hold the competition. They used the last of their money to fly the competitors there...some competitors I heard paid their own way with the promise of reimbursement.

IFSA was exposed...they screwed so many for millions of dollars in defaulted debt to a number of competitors, companies, the State of Delaware (taxes) and the South Korean government (the competition never aired in TV world-wide as IFSA had promised the tourism bureau).

The Wessels represented IFSA in USA. Here is an report on Ironmind about the IFSA fraud and our role as victims. The actual amount we lost including the freight bill listed in the article, the ocean shipping charges from South Korea to Philadelphia, two years storage charges I incurred holding the IFSA equipment and the commission my friend had deleted by the parent freight company totaled about \$120,000.00 ...My friend - a strongman sponsor - was forced to close his Philadelphia office...people lost their jobs over these worthless cowards you now follow. Here is the Ironmind report.

<http://www.ironmind.com/news/IFSA-Going-Going-.-.-/>

It wasn't until after my surgery in 2010 that I could go after IFSA. Before the surgery, I could not sit in chair for more than about a minute. I was in agony.

Please attached tax statement from the Government of the State of Delaware. You can see, IFSA still owes the State of Delaware about \$195,000.00 in franchise taxes for issuing 200 million shares of stock. It will never be paid. The staff of late Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden tried in 2011 to build a case against Arnold Schwarzenegger for the taxes and fraud charges, but kept running into technicalities.

Please see attached letter confirming the State of North Carolina's securities division who opened a review for securities fraud. Why North Carolina? IMG was taping a WSM competition on the grounds of Wingate University (NC) in 2011 and the hope was that some of the IMG staff members involved in the stock market scam would show.

Unfortunately none of the main IFSA stock market scam players showed...the review did prompt then Wingate University President Jerry McGee to try and cancel the taping. Also the

North Carolina tourist bureau cancelled a \$60,000.00 media buy with IMG...I did receive my first "Cease and Desist" warning from IMG at that time.

Also at this time, my friend and I realized that we were never going to recover our financial losses. We also realized my show was chosen to try and blame the IFSA failure on was because I am and have never been involved with steroids. In fact I had written articles going back to 1991 exposing the dangers steroid use. In 1991 I co-authored a radio documentary "Steroids-Not Worth the Risk" with world-class trainer and former Philadelphia Sixers owner Pat Croce. I was the bad guy to Steroid Nation.

We decided to put all that passion and rage into something good for the youth of America...get these shows to drug test or end them.

The fight continues. Suggestions to USS officials: 1) Tell Willie Wessels, Rob Howe and Richard McMillan to turn over my Hummer Tire deadlift, and introduce a real testing policy for steroids that can be monitored for integrity. 2) Leave United States Strongman now...before you become one strongman's victims as well.

Very Truly Yours,

Al Thompson  
Founder-POYS  
Protect Our Youth from Steroids

3246

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 842

Session of  
2015

BY SENATORS: ROBERT BAKER, PATRICK J. COLEMAN, JENNIFER L. COSKI, JAMES  
M. HANCOCK, JEFFREY B. HARRIS, JEFFREY J. MARANO, JAYME R. ROSENTHAL,  
AND SENATORS: JEFFREY B. HARRIS, JEFFREY J. MARANO, JAYME R. ROSENTHAL, APRIL 29, 2015

RECEIVED BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 83,  
APRIL 29, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS BY ATHLETES;  
REPEALING AN ACT THAT KNOWINGLY ALLOWS OR ENCOURAGES  
ATHLETES TO USE PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS, AND URGING ALL  
ATHLETES, COACHES, AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS IN  
THIS COMMONWEALTH TO COUNSEL THEMSELVES AND THEIR ATHLETES  
AGAINST THE USE OF PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS.

AND BECAUSE THE USE OF PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS, COMMONLY  
KNOWN AS DOPING, IS PREVALENT AMONG SOME PROFESSIONAL  
ATHLETES, ESPECIALLY THOSE PARTICIPATING IN STRONGMAN  
COMPETITIONS, SUCH AS "WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN" OWNED BY IMG,  
"ARNOLD SPORTS FESTIVAL," "ARNOLD CLASSIC," "ARNOLD FITNESS  
EXPO," "ARNOLD STRONGMAN CLASSIC," "AMERICA'S STRONGEST MAN,"  
"ARNOLD AMATEUR STRONGMAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP," AND OTHER SIMILAR  
EVENTS, SPONSORED BY NORTH AMERICAN STRONGMAN, UNITED STATES  
STRONGMAN, INTERNATIONAL POWERLIFTING ASSOCIATION, STARTING  
STRONGMAN, WESTSIDE BARBELL, JOE WEIDER ENTERPRISES,  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BODYBUILDING AND FITNESS, AMERICAN  
STRONGMAN CORPORATION, STRONGMAN CORPORATION, OLYMPIA STRONGMAN  
CHALLENGER, AND STRONGMAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, AND

WHEREAS, the use of performance-enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids, androstenedione, human growth hormone, erythropoietin, diuretics and stimulants, poses serious health risks, such as the increased chance of suffering a heart attack or stroke, or developing liver and other cancers, and of irregular blood and adrenal imbalances; and

WHEREAS, knowingly inducing or encouraging athletes to use performance-enhancing drugs not only jeopardizes their lives, but also the lives of young athletes and athletes who may be unaware of the risks of using performance-enhancing drugs and offends the integrity of the conduct of the athletes they hope to entice and

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Digital Research and Analytics Center group working to make the Internet safer, "Young athletes, 13 to 24 years of age, said steroid use by professional athletes gave young athletes the impression that using performance-enhancing drugs was necessary to succeed in professional sports or improve their game; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes and rebuke any organization that knowingly allows or encourages athletes to use performance-enhancing drugs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urge the Department of Education to notify all public and private schools in this Commonwealth of the adoption of this resolution and also urge all high school and college coaches and athletic directors in this Commonwealth to educate themselves and their athletes about the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs.





# State of Delaware

## Annual Franchise Tax Report

CORPORATION NAME <b>IFSA STRONGMAN, INC.</b>				SECTION <b>2008</b>
FILE NUMBER <b>3783888</b>	INCORPORATION DATE <b>2004/03/30</b>	RENEWAL/REVOCATION DATE <b>2007/11/09</b>	PHONE NUMBER	
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP				
REGISTERED AGENT <b>THE CORPORATION TRUST COMPANY</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9000010</b></span>				
CORPORATION TRUST CENTER 1209 ORANGE STREET WILMINGTON DE 19801				
BEGIN DATE	AUTHORIZED STOCK END DATE	DESIGNATION/ STOCK CLASS	NO. OF SHARES	PAR VALUE/ SHARE
2007/11/09		COMMON	200,000,000	.001000
		PREFERRED	10,000,000	.001000
OFFICER NAME STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP				
DIRECTORS NAME STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP				
Total number of directors:				
<p><i>NOTICE: Pursuant to 8 Del. C. 502(b), If any officer or director of a corporation required to make an annual franchise tax report to the Secretary of State shall knowingly make any false statement in the report, such officer or director shall be guilty of perjury.</i></p> <p>Authorized by (officer, director or incorporator) (street, city, state, postal code (zip) and country)</p>				
Signature (X)		date		title

*State of Delaware*  
*Annual Franchise Tax Report*

[illegible]





**THE ARNOLD CLASSIC WEEKEND PARTNERS WITH IFSA STRONGMAN FOR 2005  
AND 2006**

**The New Partners Vow to Maintain the Uniqueness of the Strongman  
Contest now known as The Arnold Classic**

Classic Productions, producer of The Arnold Fitness Classic Weekend, and IFSA Strongman, the world governing body, sports marketer and pro-athlete manager of the Strongman sport, today announced that they have signed a two-year partnership to produce the Strongman event called The Arnold Classic.

Under the agreement, IFSA Strongman will bring the world's best strongmen each year to Columbus, OH, to take on each other and the challengers from strength sports such as Weightlifting and Powerlifting in various extreme tests of strength. Broadcast on IFSA Strongman's TV platform, the show will have a reach of hundreds of millions of viewers.

The new partners confirm that the 2005 edition of The Arnold Classic will have the lineup of athletes and the selection of disciplines that Classic Productions have already announced prior to signing this new agreement.

Says Jim Lorimer, Director and Co-founder of The Arnold Classic Weekend: "Following recent unexpected developments in the Strongman world, it has become necessary to re-evaluate our existing affiliations in order to preserve The Arnold Classic in the global Strongman calendar as an independent and multi-sport competition. We felt that IFSA Strongman's partnership proposal demonstrated the best understanding of what Arnolds is about, and hence offered the highest long-term value for the Strongman sport."

Says Jussi Laurimaa, the CEO of IFSA Strongman: "Jim Lorimer, Terry Todd, and their team have shown true integrity in how they navigated the potential partnership landscape during these times of change in the strongman sport. The contract now signed maintains the status of Arnolds as the U.S. Open of Strongman contests: independent, irreplaceable, and excitingly different. At the same time, the contract elevates The Arnold Classic into the official IFSA Strongman pro-competition calendar, thus further increasing its attractiveness to the athletes and sponsors."

For further details contact:

- **Classic Productions:** Dr. Terry Todd, Tel: +1 512 657 5642, email: ttjt@centurytel.net.
- **IFSA Strongman:** Mr. Jaime Alvarez, Tel: +44 87 1218 IFSA, email: press@ifsastrongman.com.

-- ENDS --

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*State of North Carolina*  
*Department of the Secretary of State*

ELAINE F. MARSHALL  
SECRETARY OF STATE

August 30, 2011

Mr. Albert Thompson

Re: Complaint Against International Federation of Strength Athletes (IFSA);  
Colin Bryce; Ilkka Kinnunen d/b/a Strongman Champions League &  
Giants Live

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Your complaint concerning International Federation of Strength Athletes (IFSA); Colin Bryce; Ilkka Kinnunen d/b/a Strongman Champions League & Giants Live was received by the Securities Division ("Division") of the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State. The Division is responsible for administering the securities laws of the State of North Carolina.

Your complaint is presently under review by our staff. We will keep you informed as to the outcome of this matter.

However, we are writing this letter to advise you to consult an attorney to determine whether it would be advisable for you to initiate a civil lawsuit. We recommend this to people regularly, because the Securities Division is not authorized by state law to bring a civil action on behalf of an individual investor to obtain monetary recovery. We can revoke a stockbroker's license, we can investigate securities fraud, and we can issue injunctive orders, but we cannot sue to get your money back. Only you can do that.

Furthermore, we encourage you to consult an attorney promptly, because there is a statute of limitations that cuts off your right to sue after a certain time. That statute is NCGS §78A-56, and it reads:

No person may sue ... for a [securities registration violation] or [a licensing violation] more than two years after the sale or contract of sale.

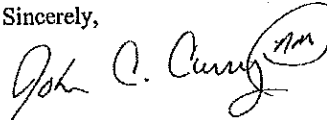
Mr. Albert Thompson  
August 30, 2011  
Page 2

No person may sue ... for [a violation based on fraud or deceit] more than three years after the person discovers facts constituting the violation, but in any case no later than five years after the sale or contract of sale, except that if a person who may be liable under this section engages in any fraudulent or deceitful act that conceals the violation or induces the person to forgo or postpone commencing an action based upon the violation, the suit may be commenced not later than three years after the person discovers or should have discovered that the act was fraudulent or deceitful.

Because the application of this statute of limitations to a specific situation requires some familiarity with the way the securities laws work, you may wish to consult an attorney about filing a civil suit on your behalf even though you have filed a complaint with our office.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at the Department of the Secretary of State, Securities Division, P.O. Box 29622, Raleigh, North Carolina 27626 or call me at (919) 733-3924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John C. Curry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "C". There is a small circular mark or stamp to the right of the signature.

John C. Curry  
Special Agent-in-Charge

**From:** Ohio Chamber of Commerce

**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 10:04 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Ohio Chamber Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception



OHIO CHAMBER  
of COMMERCE

March 13, 2017

Dear Member of the Ohio General Assembly:

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is honored to welcome former football coach, retired ESPN commentator, author and motivational speaker Lou Holtz, as the keynote speaker at our 2017 Annual Meeting. Holtz will bring his leadership expertise and instill in all attendees his wisdom in being a winner on and off the field.

The event will be held on **Tuesday, May 2 at 3:30 p.m.** at the Jo Ann Davidson Theatre in downtown Columbus. The Ohio Chamber's **Legislative Reception** follows Lou Holtz's address from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square.

**The Ohio Chamber invites you to accept one ticket to Lou Holtz's address.** The value of the ticket is \$100.00. If you accept a complimentary ticket, we must report the value of it as a gift to you on our JLEC report. You will also have to report receiving the gift. If you accept the complimentary ticket and give it to someone else to use, it will still be reported as a gift to you. To register online please [click here](#). You may chose "Ohio General Assembly Reporting" for the complimentary ticket, or "Annual Meeting General Registration" for the option to pay for your ticket. You may also accept a complimentary ticket and purchase others. **You must register to attend the keynote speech.** Tickets will be reserved for you and available to be picked up at the Jo Ann Davidson Theatre the day of the event.

**The Legislative Reception is an "all-invited event". No reservation is necessary for legislators to attend the Legislative Reception at the Sheraton Hotel from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 2.** Business leaders from around the state - including some of your constituents - will be there, and we hope you will plan on joining us too.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our Annual Meeting and Legislative Reception, please contact Sherry Heffner or (614) 228-4201.

We hope to see you there.

See what's happening on our social sites



Ohio Chamber of Commerce, 230 E. Town St., Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [jfeasel@ohiochamber.com](mailto:jfeasel@ohiochamber.com) in collaboration with



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**From:** NCSL TODAY  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:48 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Kansas moves to expand Medicaid in wake of health care bill failure

NCSL Today | [Manage your subscription](#)



## TOP NEWS March 29, 2017

### **Kansas moves to expand Medicaid in wake of health care bill failure**

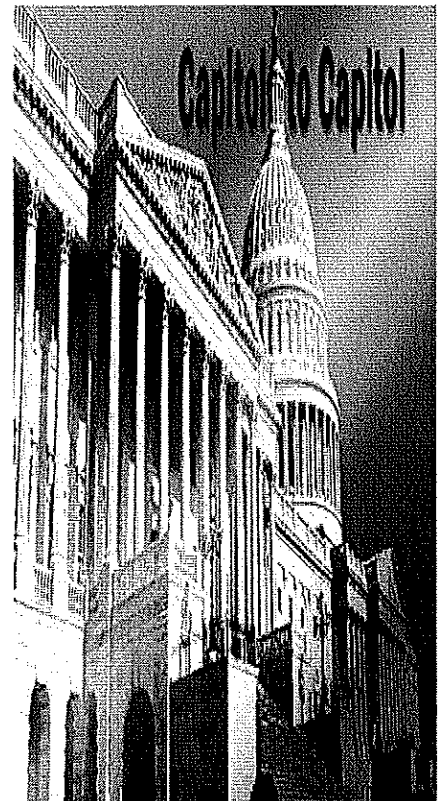
*The Washington Post*

The abrupt reversal in Kansas could be the front edge of a larger shift nationally, as state lawmakers absorb the repercussions of congressional Republicans' failed attempt to repeal and replace elements of the Affordable Care Act. [NCSL resources on Medicaid expansion.](#)

### **Merging colleges to cut costs and still boost graduation rates**

*Stateline*

Students who apply to Georgia State University no longer receive a rejection letter if they don't get in. Instead, they're invited to enroll in Georgia State's Perimeter College — the former community college that was absorbed by the Atlanta university last year.



FEATURED

## **Ohio lawmakers want to curb opioid over-prescribing**

*Dayton Daily News*

In the battle against the opioid addiction crisis gripping Ohio, state lawmakers are looking at cracking down on the over-prescribing powerful painkillers.

## **Dem states pledge climate action in face of Trump roll-back**

*The Hill*

Liberal-leaning states are promising to push forward with aggressive targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing renewable energy sources just as President Trump moved to roll back much of his predecessor's efforts to combat climate change.

## **Michigan reaches deal with Flint to replace 18,000 lead-tainted water lines**

*Associated Press*

Flint will replace at least 18,000 lead or galvanized-steel water lines by 2020, and the state will pick up the bill with state and federal money, according to the settlement filed in federal court.

## **What the unemployment drug testing bill on Trump's desk means for states**

*Governing*

The president is expected to sign legislation that undoes an Obama-era regulation about who can be drug tested. States will likely get more say over the matter, but not just yet. **NCSL data cited.**

## **= A Capitol to Capitol state-federal newsletter**

From the withdrawn health care bill to the potential 'nuclear option' in the Senate, stay up to date with all the news from D.C. in the latest edition of Capitol to Capitol.



## **Registration open for NCSL Legislative Summit in Boston**

## **Webinar Friday: Keys to an effective, engaging presentation**





## **Webinar Thursday: Retirement woes**



## **A deserved day of remembrance and honor for Vietnam veterans**

I am privileged to have been raised in America's heartland—just miles from Fort Riley, Kan.—and to have a Vietnam veteran as a father.

NCSL resources on drug testing for welfare recipients.



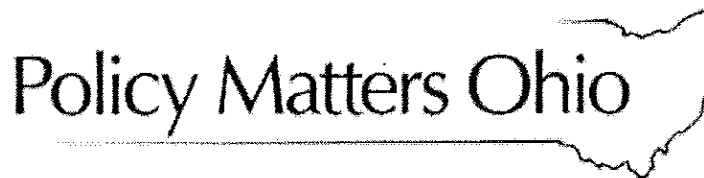
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**From:** Caitlin Johnson, Policy Matters Ohio  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Release: Funding needed to fight addiction



**For immediate release**  
**Contact Wendy Patton**  
**614.221.4505**

## **Funding needed to fight addiction**

**Despite raging drug epidemic, Kasich budget flat funds treatment**

In 2015, more than 3,300 people died from drug overdoses in Ohio. Despite a raging drug epidemic, Governor Kasich's budget for 2018 and 2019 flat funds mental health and addiction services.

In a Budget Bite released today, Policy Matters Ohio calls for increased investment, especially in publicly funded treatment beds. The recommended number of public psychiatric beds is 40 per 100,000 people. In 2016, Ohio had just 9.7. The state's best resourced region - the Columbus area - had just 23.5 public and private adult psychiatric beds per 100,000 people in 2014.

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities calls for \$27 million a year for regional crisis treatment and withdrawal management centers with more beds and services to fight the drug epidemic. The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Service Providers supports this and also recommends, annually, an additional \$10 million for recovery housing, \$45 million for more in-patient beds for children and adolescents, and \$33 million for universal prevention services in Ohio schools and targeted help for children most at risk.

"If Ohio is serious about combatting the growing drug epidemic and saving lives, these programs need dedicated state resources from the General Revenue Fund," said Budget Bite author Wendy Patton. "We could get the funding by closing some of Ohio's \$9 billion in tax breaks and restoring top income tax brackets. Tax cuts

have drained \$3 billion from the state's ability to provide desperately needed public services."

[Read the release online](#)

[Keep up with the latest Budget Bites](#)

###

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**Subject:** Relā Stories: Donald Wells



## Relā Stories

This week's Relā Story comes from Donald Wells! Watch the video to hear how attending Relā events helped Don connect with others who are passionate about being better leaders.



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**From:** Greater Cleveland Partnership

**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 6:06 PM


**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Investing in The Q boosts Cleveland's growing hospitality industry; GCP supports commercial docket

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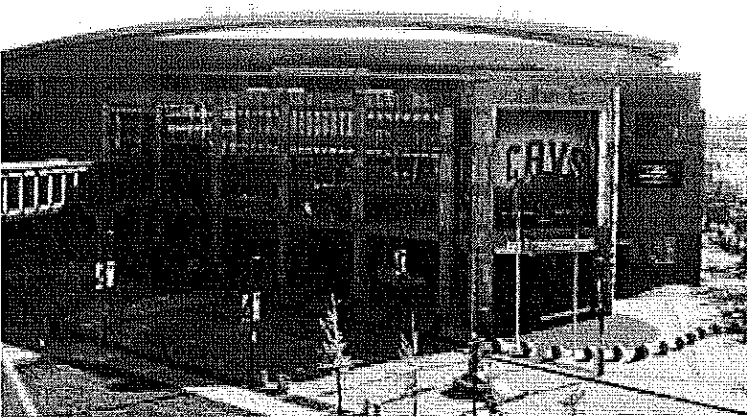
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News



### Investing in The Q boosts Cleveland's growing hospitality industry

Last week, Greater Cleveland Partnership President and CEO Joe Roman was interviewed on "ESPN Cleveland Tonight" on ESPN 850 WKNR by host Dave Skoczen about the proposed renovation of Quicken Loans Arena.

He talks about how the expansion would have a positive economic impact on Cleveland's hospitality industry, which is a steadily growing contributor to the city's economy.

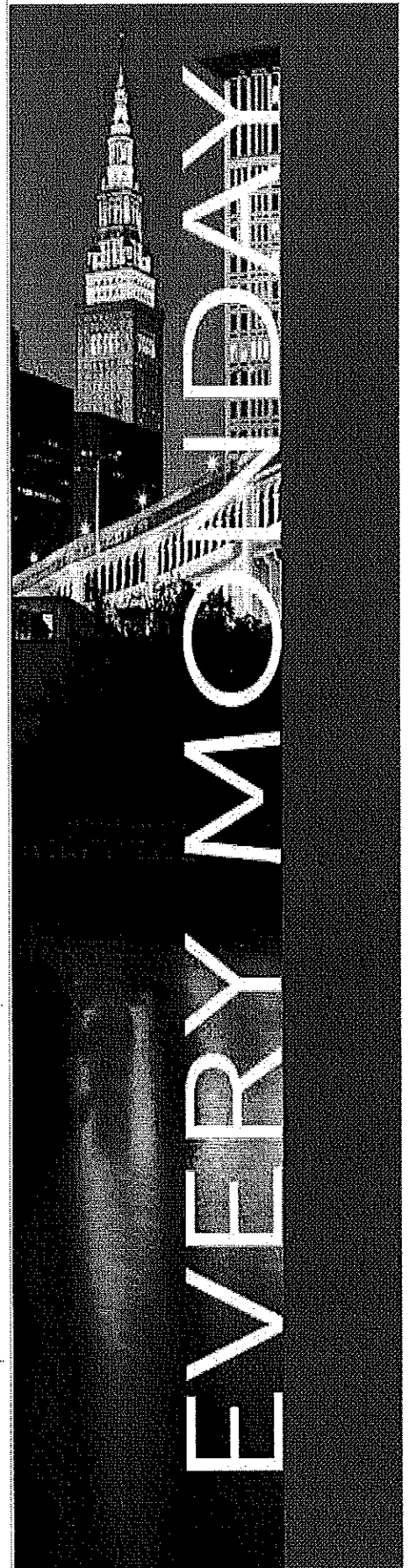
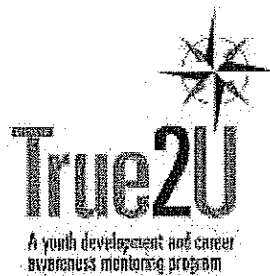
He also discusses why renovations are needed now to ensure that the 23-year-old arena can be competitive with newer facilities.

In addition, he points out that no new tax money is needed for the renovations; the dollars are generated by activity coming to The Q and the renovations would be a reinvestment to maximize the venue's long-term potential.

[Click to listen.](#)

### Help CMSD eighth-graders set goals for career success

Recognizing that career readiness starts early, an innovative program—True2U—a collaboration among the Cleveland Foundation's youth development program, My Com, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), the Greater Cleveland Partnership and Neighborhood Leadership Institute—provides CMSD eighth-graders with support to explore their purpose, identify their strengths and set goals for



success.

Business professionals are invited to volunteer as True2U mentors for the 2017-2018 school year. The career exploration and mentoring program focuses on raising career awareness for CMSD students on the cusp of entering high school.

Mentors will be trained in a structured curriculum and work in teams of two or three mentors with small groups of students once a month for the duration of the school year and will be supported by a CMSD teacher.

**[Click for more information about True2U.](#)**

To learn more about True2U, or to sign up to be a mentor, please contact Angela Finding at [afinding@gcpartnership.com](mailto:afinding@gcpartnership.com) or 216.592.2385.

#### **Introducing our Internship Central Lunch & Learn webinar series**

The new Greater Cleveland Partnership Internship Central Lunch & Learn webinar series, to be held quarterly, will provide valuable information to employers on issues related to starting, managing, and/or growing internship programs.

The first webinar will feature James McWeeney, an attorney with Walter Haverfield, who will share his expertise regarding legal issues employers should know about internships.



Internship programs can present specific legal questions such as: What is the legal definition of an internship? Is an intern an employee?

This legal primer will answer these questions and more. The webinar will be held **Tuesday, June 20** from noon to 1 p.m.

**[Read more.](#)**

**[Click to register](#)**

**GCP supports commercial docket**

#### **Sponsored Content**

#### **More events**

#### **04.12.17 Morning Conversation: Congressman Jim Renacci**

Congressman Jim Renacci represents the 16th district of Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives.



First elected in November 2010, he is currently serving his fourth term in Congress where he is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Budget Committee.

The GCP Morning Conversation series is sponsored by:



#### **04.20.17 Sales Academy**

Go from salesperson to trusted advisor and take your sales efforts to the next level!

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today to learn from two of the best "sales doctors," Marvin Montgomery and Hal Becker.

The session will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the GCP Offices, 1240 Huron Road East in Playhouse Square.

Efficient and consistent resolution of legal business disputes can be a competitive advantage for our region.

The Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Commercial Court, in effect from 2013 to 2015, was one such success that made our region a better place to do business.

Following a modification to Ohio Supreme Court rules, the Greater Cleveland Partnership is joining other organizations from across our region in calling for reestablishment of this important docket.

**[Click to read our letter of support.](#)**



**GCP/COSE members connect with elected officials in Columbus**

About 50 Greater Cleveland Partnership/COSE members had an opportunity to discuss and learn more about public policy issues that impact them during this year's COSE Day at the Capitol in Columbus on April 5.

The timing of this year's event provided members with the opportunity to share their experiences and meet directly with 14 members of the legislature and their policy advisors during a key time in the legislative process.

Featured speakers included Attorney General Mike DeWine, Senate President Larry Obhof, House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn, Representative Kirk Schuring and Greg Moody, director, Governor's Office of Health Transformation

In addition, Sen. Obhof and Rep. Schuring were honored as winners of 2016 COSE/GCP Small Business Advocate of the Year Awards.

**[Read more.](#)**



For more information or to register, contact Reagan Leatherman at [rleatherman@gcpartnership.com](mailto:rleatherman@gcpartnership.com) or call 216.592.2376.

### **04.22.17 March for Science Cleveland**

Expected to draw thousands of supporters composed of grassroots volunteers and a coalition of foundations and science-based organizations, March for Science Cleveland is a satellite march to the national March for Science to be held the same day in Washington, D.C.



The local event is meant to underscore the vital role scientific research plays in our daily lives and celebrate the impact of science in the Northeast Ohio community.

All are welcome to attend this free event.



### **06.08.17 Business-2-Business Matchmaker**

GCP-member companies and organizations are invited to participate as buyers and connect with a diverse group of businesses who can help fulfill your procurement and diverse supplier needs.



**Above photos:** GCP Board members Mike Stanek (left) and Kevin Johnson (right), who chairs the Small Business Caucus, presented the Small Business Advocate awards to Senator Obhof (left photo-center) and Rep. Schuring (right photo-center).



### **GCP supports business expansion project in Solon**

Gorbett Enterprises of Solon Inc., dba Great Lakes Cold Storage, announced last week that its expansion planned for the Solon location continues to advance.

The company is currently home to 135 employees and has plans to create 68 new full-time positions over the next four years. In addition, the company anticipates investing more than \$2 million in facility improvements.

Tremendous support was provided by its local economic development partners including the City of Solon, Cuyahoga County, the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP), Team NEO and JobsOhio.

First Commonwealth Bank has also been a key component in Great Lakes' ability to take on the expansion.

"This project is the perfect example of how our economic development system works for Greater Cleveland businesses," said GCP President and CEO Joe Roman.

"We applaud the company's confidence in the Greater Cleveland market and all our partners' efforts to secure this expansion in Cuyahoga County."

### **Read more.**

**A complimentary GCP member benefit:  
Schedule an energy audit for your facilities**

Achieving energy efficiency can be challenging.

The Greater Cleveland Partnership/COSE Energy Team has a solution to help GCP members improve the overall efficiency of

The event is presented by the GCP and COSE.

### **Internal Partners**



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To learn more, please visit [www.cose.org/audits](http://www.cose.org/audits) or email the Energy Team at [energy@gcpartnership.com](mailto:energy@gcpartnership.com).



**One more day to secure the early-bird discount!**

You still have one more day to take advantage of the early-bird discount for the **2017 Greater Cleveland Middle-Market Forum**.

The special rate of \$99 per ticket for Greater Cleveland Partnership members **ends tomorrow, Tuesday, April 11.**

The premier event in Northeast Ohio for middle-market companies will be held **Thursday, May 11** from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Corporate College East. = A

Our keynote speaker is Chieh Huang, CEO of Boxed, one of the most-talked-about middle-market e-commerce companies in the U.S.



Founded in 2013, the company is disrupting the wholesale shopping club experience. Its customers can shop for bulk-sized items online or via mobile app and have them delivered directly to their door.

It was recently named by *Forbes* magazine as one of the next "billion-dollar startups."

You'll also be engaged in discussions with local thought leaders on topics that are top-of-mind for middle-market companies.

[Click to register](#)

GCP members

Through April 11, 2017: 1 ticket: \$99

April 12-May 9, 2017

One ticket: \$149

Two or more tickets: \$129 each

Nonmembers: \$399

Thanks to our sponsors:

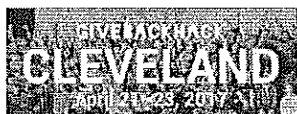


*The Greater Cleveland Middle-Market Forum is presented by Accelerating Middle-Market Progress, a program of the Greater Cleveland Partnership.*



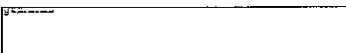
**GiveBackHack Cleveland to bring socially conscious ideas into reality**

GiveBackHack is a weekend-long event (Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23) that will bring together passionate community members to develop sustainable, technology-based solutions to some of our most pressing social issues.

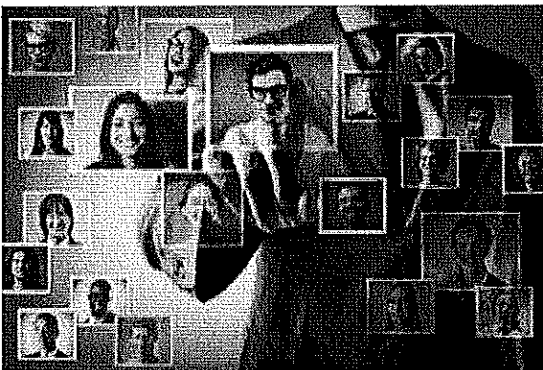


It will be held at the offices of StartMart, 50 Public Square, Suite 200 in downtown Cleveland.

Attendees from various backgrounds (designers, developers, students, entrepreneurs, engaged citizens and more) will come together to discuss social enterprise ideas, form teams around them and then build them throughout the weekend with help of a top-tier mentor.



### Also during Tech Week...



### Get connected to IT talent

The Greater Cleveland Partnership, in collaboration with OHTec and the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE), is hosting the "Linking IT Talent Job Fair" on **Wednesday April 26** from noon to 3:30 p.m. at the Brecksville Community Center.

This is a **FREE** event for current students, recent graduates, and professionals to meet with leading Northeast Ohio companies to explore IT internship and job opportunities.

**Learn more.**

**Employers: Follow this link to register.**

**Students and job seekers: Use this link to register.**

**Presented by**





### **Celebrate the Best of Tech Awards**

These technology business awards shed light on innovative companies and leaders, helping OHTec promote this region as a remarkable place to work and live, where savvy companies are doing great things.

The awards will be presented at the 11th annual Best of Tech Awards Dinner on **Thursday, April 27** from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue.

**Learn more.**

*OHTec is a program of the Greater Cleveland Partnership.*

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### **PLEASE JOIN US! Empowering Local Leadership Conference**

You're invited to the fifth annual Empowering Local Leadership Conference to be held **May 18-19** in Washington, D.C.

The event is presented by the Greater Cleveland Partnership with special guests (above photo left to right) Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11), Congressman Dave Joyce (OH-14) and Congressman Jim Renacci (OH-16).

The conference, which is being held in partnership with the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association and the

---

Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association, will include:

- A legislative forum for business attendees
- An opening night reception
- Breakfast with members of the Ohio Congressional delegation
- Presentations on how local governments can leverage federal resources in their communities.

**Click for details.**

**Susan Goldberg to keynote GCP's Annual Meeting;  
Register now to ensure premium seating!**

Please plan to join us and more than 1,100 business and community leaders at the Greater Cleveland Partnership **2017 Annual Meeting** on **Wednesday, June 7** from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Downtown Cleveland.



Our keynote speaker will be Susan Goldberg, editorial director of National Geographic Partners, and editor-in-chief of *National Geographic* magazine.

From 2007 to 2010, she was editor of *The Plain Dealer*. She then served as executive editor for federal, state and local government coverage for Bloomberg News in Washington, D.C. from 2010 to 2014.

The event also will include an update on our work to advance the Greater Cleveland business community's priorities, an overview of the projects and initiatives that we will embark upon as a part of our new strategic plan, presentation of the Commission on Economic Inclusion's Best-in-Class awards and more.

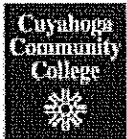
You can **register now** and lock in premium seating for your company by purchasing a corporate table of 10.

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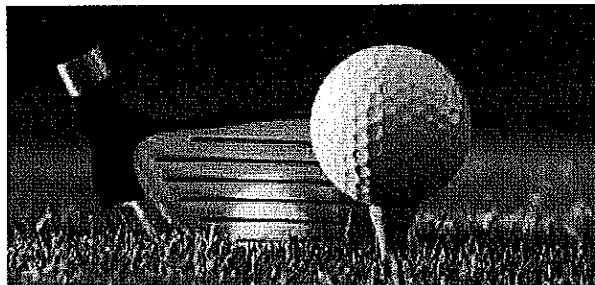


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**Mark your calendar for our member Golf Outing**

Please save the date for the Greater Cleveland Partnership Member Golf Outing on **Monday, July 24**. This event is for middle-market C-suite executives and their direct reports.

We hope you'll join us from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. for lunch, golf and dinner at Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby.

if you have questions, please email [events@gcpartnership.com](mailto:events@gcpartnership.com) or call 216.592.2390.

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**CSU launches continuing education program  
in diversity management**

Business leaders in the 21st century need a combination of smarts, emotional intelligence and cultural competence to address the often complex issues they face while also meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse workforce and clientele.



**CLEVELAND  
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*engaged learning*

To further assist managers in developing the culturally competent skills necessary to succeed as 21st-century leaders, Cleveland State University (CSU) is launching a continuing education and professional development program in diversity management for working professionals.

It builds on CSU's highly successful Master's in Diversity Management program, which is one of the only programs in the country combining cultural competence with leadership development and management training to develop culturally competent leaders.

[Read more.](#)

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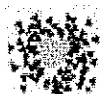
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## **NCDMM's Annual Summit and Golf Outing**



*Innovation Impacting the Warfighter*

**May 3-4, 2017**

Chestnut Ridge Golf Resort & Conference Center  
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**NCDMM is Proud to Announce its  
Summit 2017 Keynote Speaker**

**Brigadier General John C. Kubinec**



Brigadier General John C. Kubinec is the Commander of Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. As the commander, he serves a world-class workforce of over 7,200 military and civilian personnel. The complex performs programmed depot maintenance and modification on all variants of the F-15, C-130, C-5, C-17, and special operations forces aircraft. Additionally, he is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and overhaul of diverse aircraft components, avionics and electronic warfare equipment along with development and sustainment of mission critical software, test program sets and automated test equipment.

Gen. Kubinec is a native of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and received his commission from the Air Force Academy in 1992. He is a career aircraft/munitions maintenance officer and has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels as well as served in key staff positions at the center, major command, headquarters and combatant command levels. Prior to his current position, he served as the senior special assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander of United States European Command.

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Registration Ends April 27

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## Final Agenda Released!

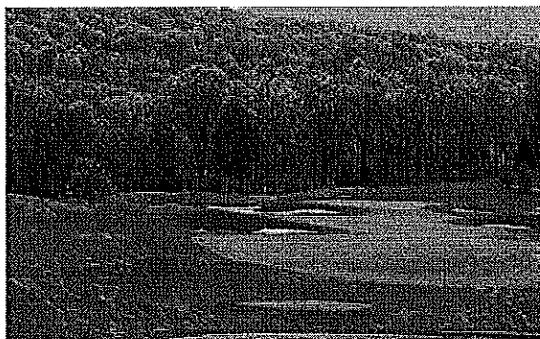
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## Support the *Troops First Foundation*!

### Bring your golf clubs...

To wrap up Summit, NCDMM will once again host its annual Troops First Benefit Golf Outing on Thursday, May 4. Golfers have the opportunity to continue networking while playing a relaxing round of golf on the Tom's Run Golf Course at Chestnut Ridge. Tom's Run was rated one of the Best Public Golf Courses in Pennsylvania by Golf Digest, earning a 4 1/2 star rating.





**And your wallet...**

NCDMM will be selling mulligans, 50/50 tickets, and raffle tickets along with holding Skins Competitions that will be donated to David Feherty's Troops First Foundation. Smail Auto Group is offering a chance to win a car for a hole-in-one and Dixon Golf will also be offering prizes for additional skins competitions.

*Troops First provides meaningful assistance to the men and women of our military wounded while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.*



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**To:** Rep48  
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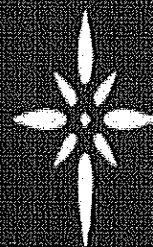
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# NEWS & NOTES



SISTERS *of* CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM

April 20, 2017



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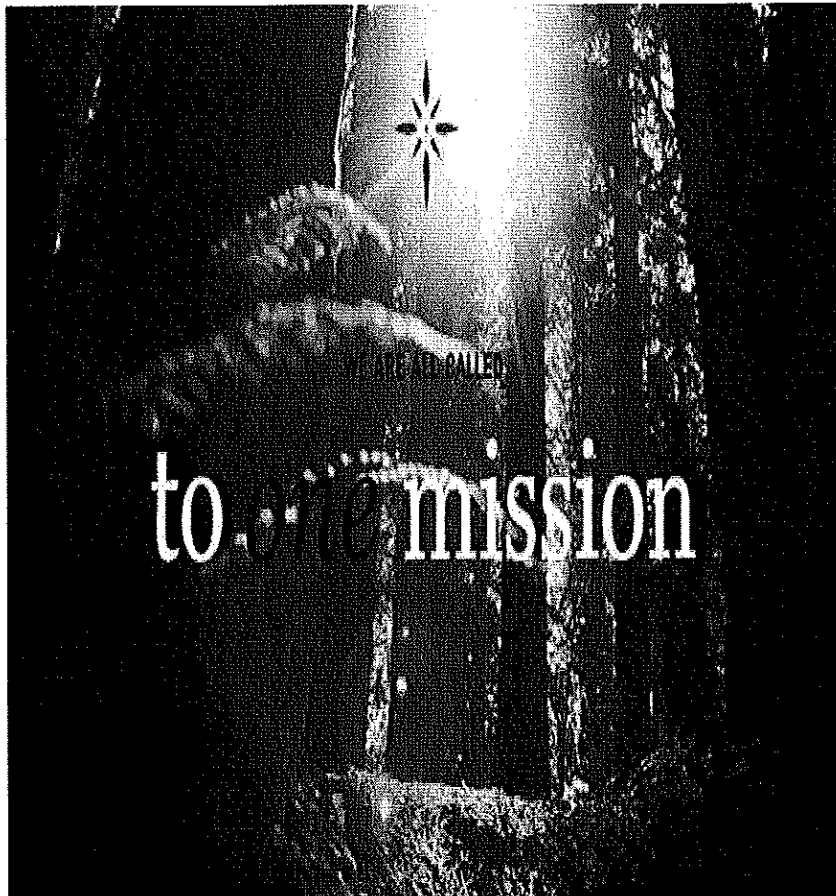
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**Health care and community leaders welcome new SCHS president & CEO at GCHI event**



Cleveland and Northeast Ohio medical and community leaders recently gathered at the Global Center for Health Innovation to welcome Thomas J. Strauss as president & CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System. More than 300 community, industry and ministry leaders gathered for the event. [More]

TAGS: SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM

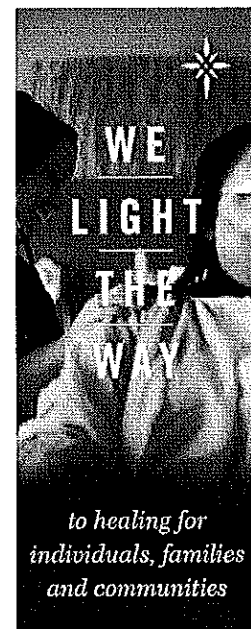


*Click to view the video.*

### **St. Vincent Charity Medical Center launches campaign to expand Rosary Hall**

In the fight against addiction, St. Vincent Charity Medical Center's Rosary Hall provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient addiction treatment. Its team has been developing their approach and restoring patients to recovery for more than 65 years. The hospital recently launched a campaign to expand this work. [More]

TAGS: ADVOCACY, HEALTH CARE, ST. VINCENT CHARITY MEDICAL CENTER



Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the Sisters of Charity Health System oversees the sponsored ministries of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, a congregation of women religious who in 1851 began an enduring legacy of responsive ministry, creative stewardship and an ongoing quest for social justice.

Today, the Sisters of Charity Health System includes: two Catholic hospitals, two elder care facilities, three grantmaking foundations,

### **United Way receives grant to implement social service assessment with four clinical partners, including St. Vincent Charity Medical Center**

United Way of Greater Cleveland received a \$4.51 million grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish the Accountable Health Communities model. Four clinical partners, including St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, will adopt the model, which is designed to connect patients with social service resources. [More]

TAGS: ADVOCACY, HEALTH CARE, SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM, ST. VINCENT CHARITY MEDICAL CENTER

### **Villa hosts Cleveland Ballet**

Light of Hearts Villa hosted the Cleveland Ballet for a free performance open to the community. The special event took place Friday, April 14. [More]

TAGS: LIGHT OF HEARTS VILLA, HEALTH CARE

### **Opioids: Know the Risks (#KnowTheRX) campaign fights Northeast Ohio's opioid epidemic**

Officials have kicked off an expansive awareness campaign about the risks of prescription opioid abuse, which is a critical component in the fight against a heroin and fentanyl epidemic that has claimed thousands of lives in Cuyahoga County. The campaign is a collaborative effort among local agencies and organizations, production companies, hospitals (including St. Vincent Charity Medical Center) and media outlets. [More]

TAGS: SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM, ST. VINCENT CHARITY MEDICAL CENTER, ADVOCACY, HEALTH CARE

### **Mercy Medical Center radiology technologist honored by statewide organization**

The Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists recently presented Gary Greathouse, Mercy Medical Center director of the radiology tech program, with its technologist of the year award. [More]

TAGS: MERCY MEDICAL CENTER, HEALTH CARE

### **Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina meets lawmakers during Foundations on the Hill**

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Vice President of Initiatives and Public Policy Stephanie Kripa Cooper-Lewter was recently in Washington, D.C. She met with lawmakers about the foundation's work and philanthropy in general as part of the 2017 Foundations on the Hill event. [More]

TAGS: SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FOUNDATIONS

### **Mercy Medical Center patient talks about 'divine appointment' that got his life back on track**

Brian Snyder was gradually losing his physical motor skills. Despite diagnostic test results that came back normal, William Washington M.D., physical rehabilitative medicine physician and medical director of Mercy Regional

*and six outreach organizations in Ohio and South Carolina.*

= A

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Rehabilitation Center, knew something wasn't right. Brian considers his first meeting with Dr. Washington a divine appointment. [More]

TAGS: MERCY MEDICAL CENTER, HEALTH CARE

### **Cleveland hosts event for NCSW 2017 National Catholic Sisters Week**

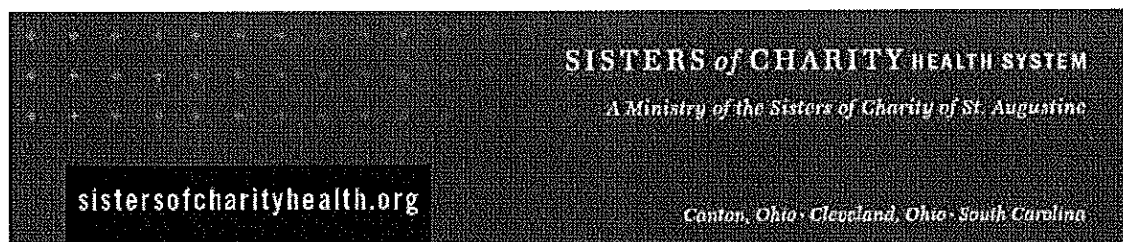
National Catholic Sisters Week took place March 8 through 14. This annual celebration was created to honor and celebrate the lives, legacies and vital contributions of Catholic sisters. The Sisters of Charity Foundation helped host an NCSW event at Mount Augustine in Richfield, OH. [More]

TAGS: SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CLEVELAND, FOUNDATIONS

### **Healthy Learners adds new officers to board of trustees**

Healthy Learners recently announced a new slate of officers to its board of trustees for the next two years. The new officers are: Chairman Matthew Roberts of Nexsen Pruet, LLC; Vice Chairman Deborah D. Locklair of McLeod Health; Secretary Cleo F. Richardson of the Pee Dee Education Center; and Treasurer Rich Williams of Unum US. [More]

TAGS: HEALTHY LEARNERS, OUTREACH



Sisters of Charity Health System,  
2475 East 22nd Street, Cleveland, OH 44115

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Sent by [rgallant@sistersofcharityhealth.org](mailto:rgallant@sistersofcharityhealth.org) in collaboration with



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**From:** Albert Thompson

**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2017 12:42 PM

**To:** Mike.Scanlan@img.com; jsabatelle@cbs.com; dsabreen@cbs.com;  
harrison.raboy@cbs.com

**CC:** cmu@wmeentertainment.com; cmccrum@brunswickgroup.com;  
jgolz@brunswickgroup.com; cmccrum@brunswickgroup.com;  
paul.woody@imgworld.com; Troy.Garnhart@usafa.edu; Matt.Iazzetti@img.com;  
callie\_schrank@baylor.edu; casey.stauffer@imgworld.com;  
gillian\_chavez@byu.edu; gerry.dickey@imgworld.com; jba3@clemson.edu;  
sduzan@clemson.edu; saellis@clemson.edu; joegalb@clemson.edu;  
nhonnen@clemson.edu; loreto@j@clemson.edu; mtimoth@clemson.edu;  
neffg@clemson.edu; DANRAD1@clemson.edu; simon6@clemson.edu;  
slynn@clemson.edu; kmyoung@clemson.edu; sduzan@clemson.edu;  
kbarbar@clemson.edu; patrick.streko@img.com; kwhite@duaa.duke.edu;  
ckennedy@duke.edu; tcoffman@duaa.duke.edu; mcragg@duaa.duke.edu;  
nking@duaa.duke.edu; mitch.moser@duaa.duke.edu; gillindp@appstate.edu;  
seguinj@bc.edu; heekeldw@cmich.edu; greg.ellis@imgworld.com;  
sandra.clubb@drake.edu; megan.heinchon@imgworld.com; compherj@ecu.edu;  
willsk@elon.edu; Harry.day@img.com; Athletics.Director@Furman.edu;  
Dave.Bouteiller@img.com; bdaniels@gtaa.gatech.edu; scalise@fas.harvard.edu;  
mark.fuhrman@img.com; steele@marshall.edu; Kenny.Washington@img.com;  
hiltone@ncat.edu; matt.molde@imgworld.com; schaus@ohio.edu;  
warren.ables@img.com; athleticdirector@rice.edu; erik.lowery@img.com;  
meehank@stjohns.edu; jay.fields@img.com; c.delconte@tcu.edu;  
kelly.Schukart@img.com; jcone@unca.edu; jcarabin@crimsontide.com;  
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marylu@uakron.edu; ghvanhorne@uakron.edu; deb@uakron.edu; krex@uakron.edu;  
mason.ellenberger@img.com; ingramAD@uab.edu; twhite@uab.edu;  
dcarlson@uab.edu; fmcuervo@uab.edu; deritar@uab.edu; brayc@uab.edu;  
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Jason.Lublin@imgworld.com; ben.sutton@img.com; Rob.Sine@imglearfield.com;  
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Matt.Rhea@img.com; Scott.Gadeken@img.com; sara\_mabry@casey.senate.gov;  
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bblanken@tulane.edu; mhogg@tulane.edu; jgreer1@tulane.edu;  
cbatties@tulane.edu; rdupree@tulane.edu; csneed@tulane.edu; mwilli2@tulane.edu;  
mkrall@tulane.edu; wleblanc@tulane.edu; dbonaven@tulane.edu;  
rschnei2@tulane.edu; cduru@tulane.edu; amassey@tulane.edu;  
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jgray7@tulane.edu; ebanks2@tulane.edu; gbroom@tulane.edu;  
amargher@tulane.edu; mlittlep@tulane.edu; lcase@tulane.edu;  
rsheldon@tulane.edu; dhutson1@tulane.edu; dprince@tulane.edu; speer@tulane.edu;  
khite1@tulane.edu; devlin@tulane.edu; aatkins1@tulane.edu; jcurtis4@tulane.edu;  
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dfong@civitasmedia.com; tony.geftos@13abc.com; jason.michaels@cmgohio.com;  
news@wjer.com; Wolf, Dick; tom.farrey@espn3.com; Rep06;  
susswein@austin.utexas.edu; kimberly.atkins@austin.utexas.edu; Rep01;  
rep02@ohiohouse.gov.rep03@ohiohouse.gov; Rep04; Rep05; Rep08; Rep07;  
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Rep96; Rep97; Rep98; moshiej@jmu.edu; polglagh@jmu.edu; soenksra@jmu.edu;  
phill2jr@jmu.edu; whitekj@jmu.edu; moshiej@jmu.edu; cainml@jmu.edu;  
souderjl@jmu.edu; warnerka@jmu.edu; dudleycm@jmu.edu;  
mchatburn@jmusportsproperties.com; carpenmc@jmu.edu; deweytc@jmu.edu;  
Kustertj@jmu.edu; harmisrj@jmu.edu; basgiemk@jmu.edu; willi2ji@jmu.edu;  
epsteijm@jmu.edu; houstomg@jmu.edu; stinesbw@jmu.edu; hansonja@jmu.edu;  
jamcclain@troy.edu; satkins@troy.edu; brentjones@troy.edu; chuckash@troy.edu;  
adgramley@troy.edu; jmorgan@troy.edu; bhardmon@troy.edu; jlesley@troy.edu;  
mwmoore@troy.edu; mwatson@troy.edu; rhorton@troy.edu; ben.sutton@img.com;  
jharrison@fhsaa.org; stimko@njsiaa.org; senatormurphy@murphy.senate.gov;  
sengreenstein@njleg.org; newsjerz@nj1015.com; mwade@njleg.org;  
sencodey@njleg.org; benderw@phillynews.com; dbocchi@asu.edu;  
daniel\_lee@murphy.senate.gov; asmauth@njleg.org; asmbenson@njleg.org;  
asmdanielsen@njleg.org; asmdeangelo@njleg.org; asmith@yorkbarbell.com;  
Julie.Fossi@hbo.com

**Subject:** Letter to IMG College Division demanding answer about IMG promoting steroid use in America and worldwide

**Attachments:** 051709strongman31matt\_33545547.jpg; botswanaannouncement.png;  
20160930\_112024 (1).jpg; 20160930\_112124.jpg; 20170417\_222038.jpg;  
20170417\_222056.jpg; strongman-cop.jpg

To: Michael Scanlan - Strategic Communications IMG College  
Jennifer Sabatelle - Senior Vice President, Communications, CBS Sports  
From: Al Thompson POYS Protect Our Youth from Steroids  
Date: April 17, 2017  
Re: Demand for explanation for IMG's obsession with promoting steroid use.

Dear Mr. Scanlon, Ms. Sabatelle,

Please be aware this letter is copied to over 60 of IMG's University clients around the country.

IMG has been burning the youth candle for years now. IMG has made millions and millions of dollars as the marketing agent for scores of colleges and Universities - many taxpayer funded - around the country. IMG has been making vast amounts of revenue directly from the youth of this country through institutions entrusted with our children as they enter adulthood. .

IMG has also been poisoning the youth of America and around the world for over 30 years by promoting steroid use on its TV competition "World's Strongest Man" seen - according to IMG's own media kit - to over 600 million homes worldwide.

We have tracked at least 10 American serious strongman competitors who have died including no less than four NCAA football players including IMG "World's Strongest Man" athlete Mike Jenkins who appeared in the WSM finals three times before he died on

Thanksgiving Day 2013. Mr. Jenkins also won "The Arnold Strongman Classic" in 2012, an event held annually in Columbus, OH that is owned and operated by Arnold Schwarzenegger, who along with IMG has been condemned in Pennsylvania for their lack of any kind of testing for steroids at their many respective strongman events.

Mr. Jenkins helped James Madison University win the 2005 NCAA 1AA National Football championship. Pennsylvania coroner Graham Hetrick certified that the 31-year-old Mr. Jenkins died of a massive heart episode brought on by steroid poisoning.

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/long-time\\_steroid\\_use\\_helped\\_k\\_1.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/long-time_steroid_use_helped_k_1.html)

Another NCAA football player who died recently was Gerard Benderoth, a retired NYPD police officer and 9-11 first responder who committed suicide on March 9, 2017 after his life had spiraled out of control from a life of drugs that included many years of steroid use. He was a friend of mine and he told me of his steroid use...he was suffering from depression no doubt from the events of September 11, 2001 where he watched his best friend killed who, like Gerard, was trying to save lives. Gerard played on the defensive line for Troy State. Gerard competed in the IMG steroid strongman event "Giants Live" the official qualifier for the IMG "World's Strongest Man." He was 48 at the time of his death. Please see attached photos of Gerard in his IMG "Giants Live" competitor shirt.

Gerard was the oldest of those I have tracked who have died. Nine of the 10 dead American strongmen were between the ages of 23 and 36.

For decades IMG Worldwide has been destroying the overall health and welfare of the youth of this country by continuing to own, operate and air the steroid event "World's Strongest Man," an event condemned in Pennsylvania in 2014 and 2016 by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the form of a Resolution (see attached).

The "World's Strongest Man" and "Arnold Strongman Classic" have spawned hundreds of qualifier competitions across America and thousands around the world that have the same "anything goes" policy with regards to steroid use. These qualifier events are nothing more than trade shows to recruit our young student-athletes to the "Dark Side" of steroid use.

Mr. Scanlon, I am writing you to demand that you come up with an explanation why IMG continues its obsession with promoting steroid use here in the United States and around the world.

Ms. Sabatelle, I am also demanding CBS answer the same question. Why does your network continue to air this steroid-infested competition? ESPN dropped the WSM in 2013 in part because of the steroid issues and CBS Sports Network has been airing it in the United States since.

IMG just announced a taping for a "World's Strongest Man" competition for 2017 to take place for the second consecutive year in Botswana, Africa....a country that has been dealing with an AIDS epidemic for many years. One has to wonder if the average citizen in Botswana is aware that their tax dollars are being spent to fund a steroid event that is also plagued with dead young people.

Speaking of taxes, IMG has asked for and received government funding in the name of "tourism" here in the United States and with other countries for many years. IMG has refused

interview requests to talk about being rebuked/condemned in PA for steroid use from Forbes Magazine and the YES TV Network. IMG also has received taxpayer money indirectly through the State Universities it works for.

I believe it would be illegal for IMG Corporate to again fail to respond to these questions about why IMG REFUSES to test its competitors for steroids on "World's Strongest Man" and its qualifiers.

Two IMG properties did issue a statement regarding steroid use on IMG's "World's Strongest Man" ...first is the IMG Academy in Florida a few years ago. IMG Academy responded to a request by the Florida High School Athletic Association to comment about the corporate policy regarding steroid use on "World's Strongest Man." Here it is....

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Justin Harrison <jharrison@fhsaa.org>  
To: Albert Thompson <athom1790@aol.com>  
Sent: Tue, Jun 3, 2014 7:33 am  
Subject: RE: IMG Worldwide's steroid policy

Good Morning Albert,

We received a response from the IMG Academy concerning your inquiry. Here is their response:

IMG Academy operates separately and we have no involvement with the event referenced in the email you forwarded.

We have a Drug, Substance and Alcohol policy that we enforce. The parents of all students are required, prior to admission, to give authorization for drug testing (including steroids). Given our focus on helping our student-athletes protect their future collegiate eligibility, we are probably the strictest school in the state in this area.

Sincerely,

Justin Harrison  
Assistant Executive Director for Athletic Services  
FHSAA  
(352) 372-9551 x 180

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note that IMG Academy does not dispute that WSM is infested with steroids, the expensive private school simply, without a name, distances itself from a different division of its own company.

But what is more disturbing is IMG Academy makes no mention of the health risks that can occur from using PEDs. It was all about business when IMG Academy talks about drug use with their student-athletes. Their only goal seems to be to "protect their future collegiate eligibility." These are *high school* kids.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ben Sutton, who was a founder of IMG College and has now moved onto another role with IMG, issued a statement a few years ago when he was confronted about IMG and its steroids policy regarding "World's Strongest Man."



**Statement from Ben Sutton - President of IMG College.**

"Al, I do appreciate your concern which may or may not be justified--I have no first-hand knowledge of this event or facts related to it, nor does it operate anywhere near or under our purview. I am confident you know that within IMG Worldwide, IMG College is but one of many divisions of our business and we are laser-focused on all things college and nothing else. No one that I know of either in our subsidiary nor that I have met anywhere in our company supports the use of performance enhancing drugs. In fact, in my 30 year career in and around college athletics, you would find that all three of the organizations I've been privileged to work in and around have a clear record of no tolerance with regard to this and many other issues deemed not in the best interest of amateur sports. And while you are free to contact any schools with whom we work, I am confident you will not find anyone in our space who believes that IMG College supports and/or promotes the use of performance enhancing drugs--in fact, quite the opposite.

I will refer your concern about this event to more appropriate people elsewhere in our company for their consideration and response. It is not one of the thousands of college events in which our team is engaged annually.

Thank you."

...Like IMG Academy, Mr. Sutton does not argue that I am wrong...using legalese-type language, he simply distances IMG College from another IMG division.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* I am asking the IMG agents on campus copied on this email to contact IMG corporate and urge Mike Scanlan and whoever you have to about canceling "World's Strongest Man." It does not, nor did it ever have justification to exist.

\* I am asking University officials copied here to consider dropping IMG as your marketing agent until such time as IMG cancels forever "World's Strongest Man." It cannot sell it, in fact, IMG must vigorously prohibit the name "World's Strongest Man" from ever being used again.

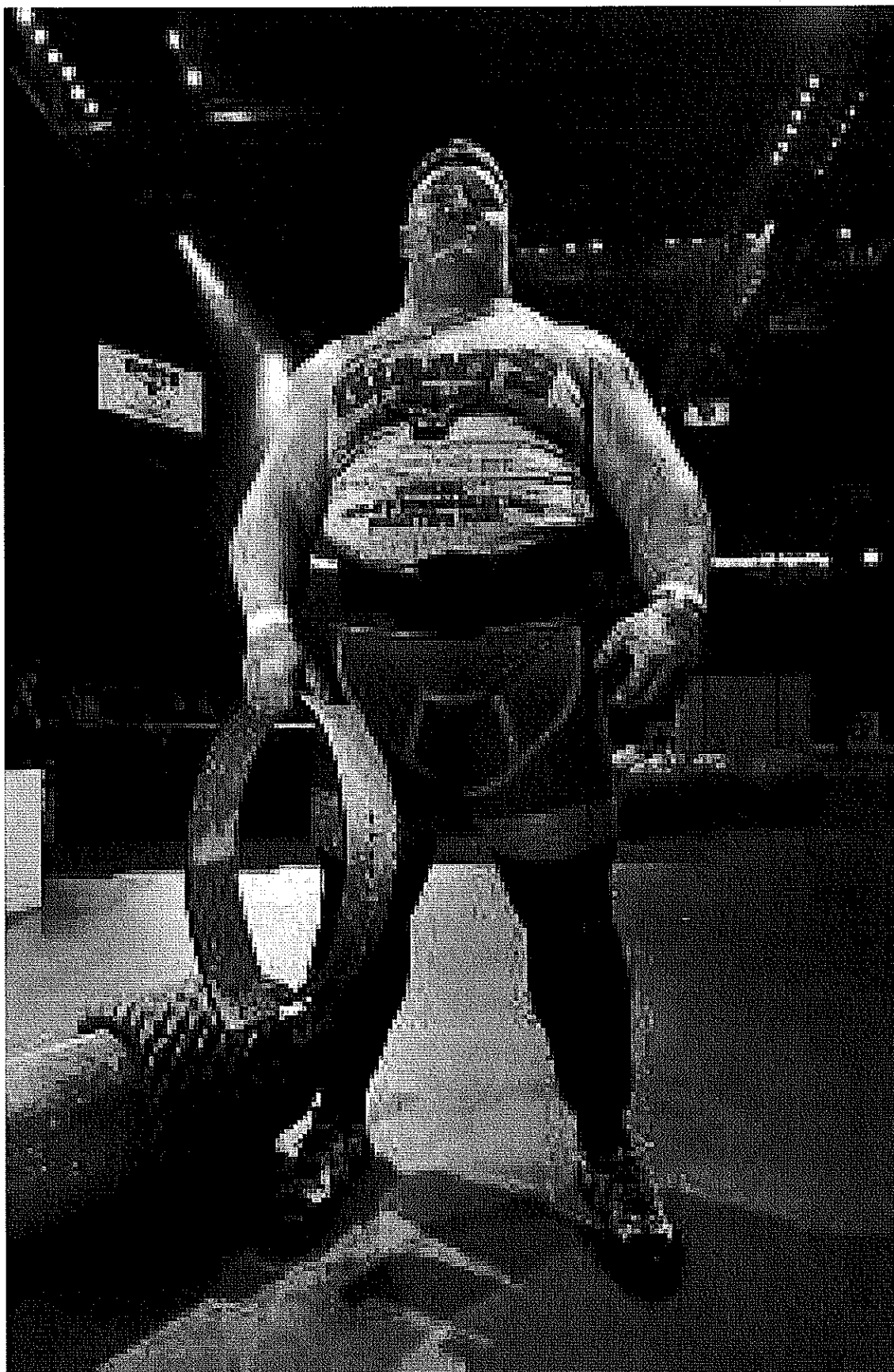
\* I am asking the elected officials copied here consider financial sanctions that would compel universities to drop IMG as their marketing agent until such time as IMG cancels forever "World's Strongest Man."

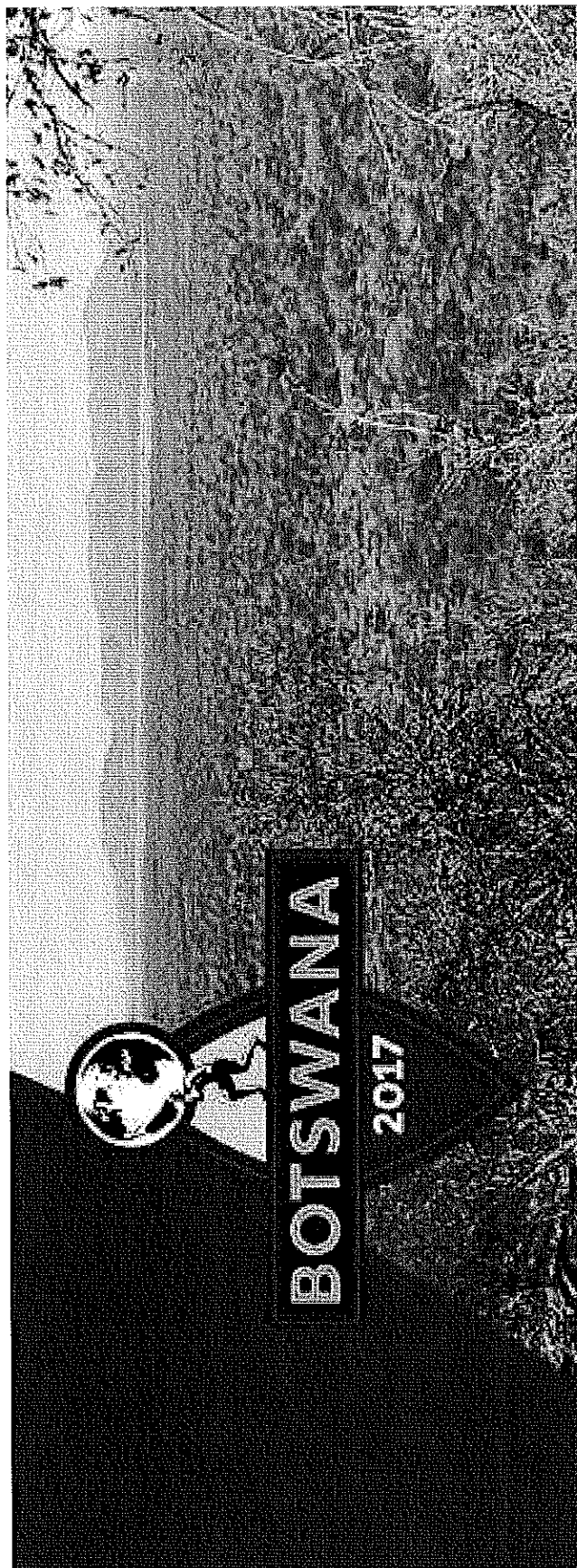
Mr. Scanlon, Ms. Sabatelle and any elected official or university official who wants more information or just talk please just email me back and we can arrange a phone call.

Thank you,

Al Thompson

Founder-POYS  
Protect Our Youth from Steroids





THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Session 6  
2015

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condemning the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes, also began a tradition that knowingly allows or encourages athletes to use performance-enhancing drugs and urging all coaches and college coaches and athletic directors in the United States to educate themselves and their athletes about the danger of performance-enhancing drugs.

WHEELING is not performance enhancing drugs, commonly  
known as "doping," is rampant among some professional  
athletes, especially those participating in strongman  
competitions such as "World's Strongest Man" owned by IMG,  
"Arnold Sports Festival," "Arnold Classic," "Arnold Fitness  
Expo," "Arnold Strongman Classic," "America's Strongest Man,"  
"Arnold Amateur Strongman World Championship," and other similar  
events sponsored by North American Strongman, United States  
Strongman, International Powerlifting Association, Starting  
Strongman, Westside Barbell, Joe Weider Enterprise,  
International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness, American  
Strongman Corporation, Strongman Corporation, Olympia Strongman  
Challenger, and Strongman Champions League, and



WHEREAS, the use of performance-enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids, androstenedione, human growth hormone, erythropoietin, diuretics and stimulants, poses serious health risks, such as the increased chance of suffering a heart attack or stroke, or developing liver and other cancers and of causing hormonal imbalances; and

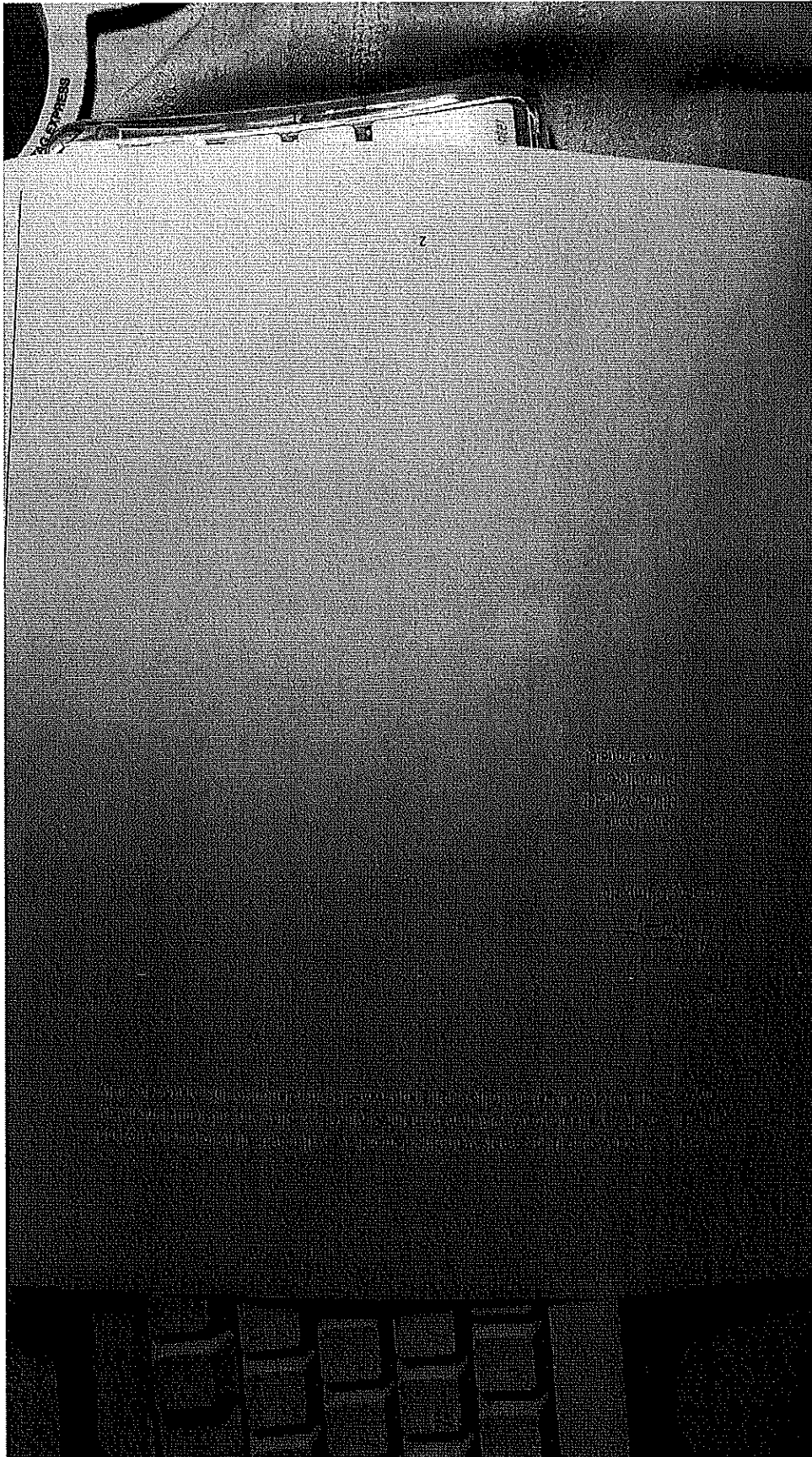
WHEREAS, knowingly allowing or encouraging athletes to use performance-enhancing drugs not only jeopardizes their lives, but also the lives of young aspiring athletes who may be unaware of the risks of using performance-enhancing drugs and otherwise are lulled into the dream of the glories they hope to attain;

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the British Medical Journal, a group seeking to make the incorrect assumption that steroid use, 14 to 26 years of age, said steroid use by young athletes gave young athletes the impression that the use of performance-enhancing drugs was necessary to succeed in professional sports or improve their game; therefore be it

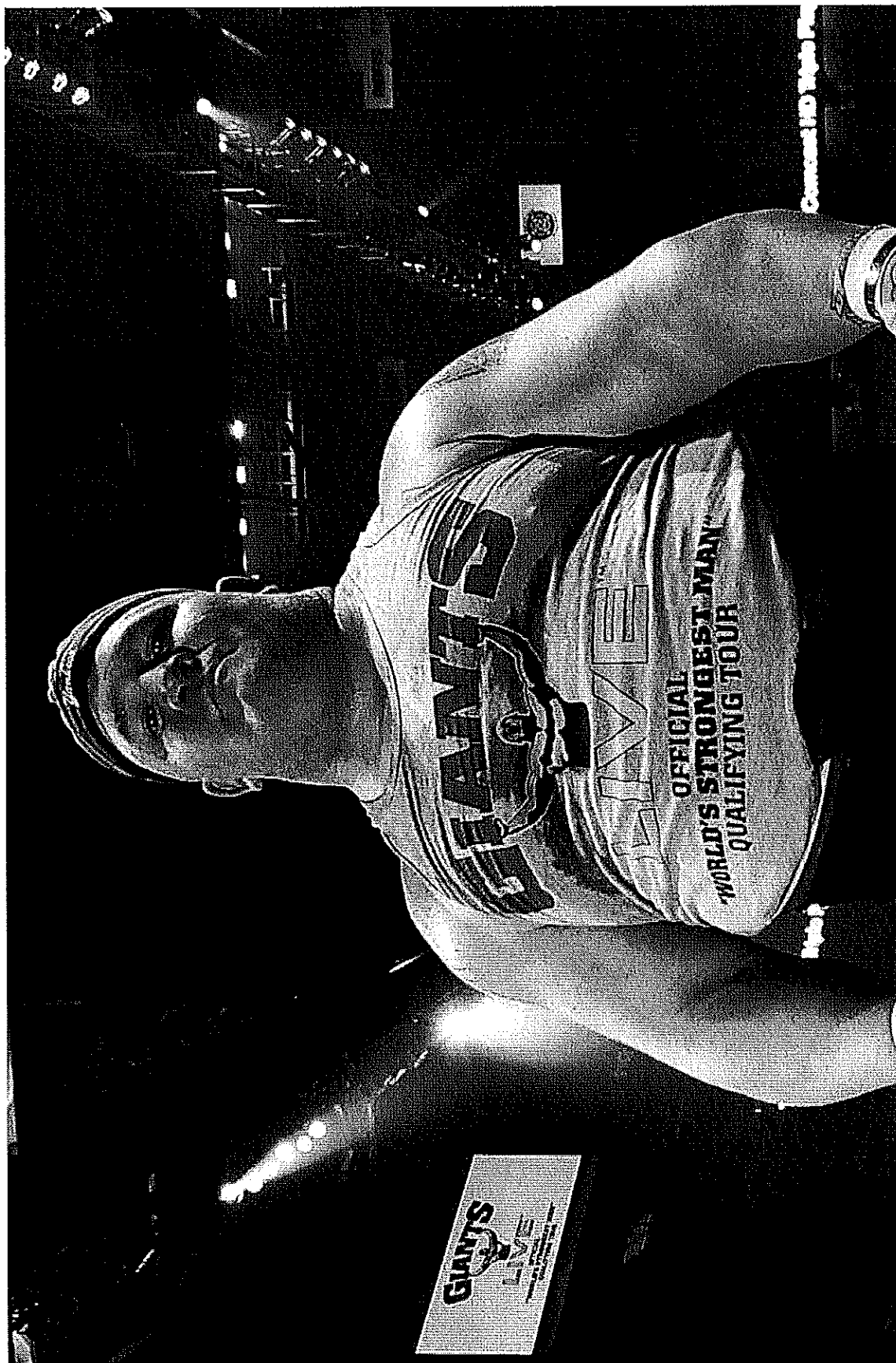
RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes and rebuke any organization that knowingly allows or encourages athletes to use performance-enhancing drugs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urge the Department of Education to notify all public and private schools in this Commonwealth of the adoption of this resolution and also urge all high school and college coaches and athletic directors in this Commonwealth to educate themselves and their athletes about the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs.

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JAN 10 1962







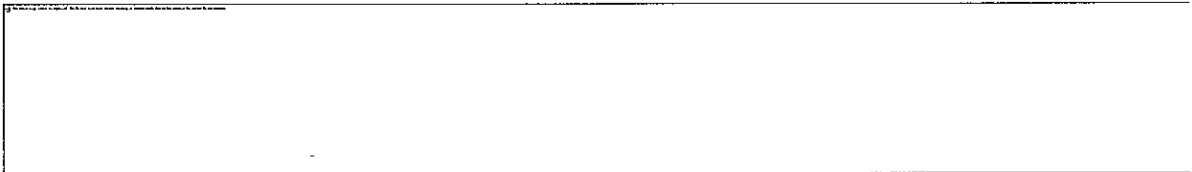
**From:** Leadership Directories  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2017 4:14 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** LDI Leads You Through the Revolving Door

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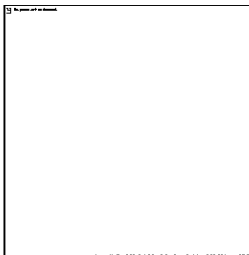
Compliments of Leadership® Online



Dear J.,

This month, Leadership Directories highlights profiles involved with the *Revolving Door*, which typically describes the movement of people from jobs in law-making positions to lobbying roles and vice-versa. Our content team applied a less formal and slightly broader set of requirements when selecting these profiles. While all of the profiled individuals indeed experienced a recent newsworthy career subsequently reflected in Leadership® Online, their path of migration could have been any kind of movement from the public sector to the private sector, or the reverse, perhaps corporate, legal, or nonprofit executives making political forays. However, many are still a formal nod to the classic reference: people who swung from legislating to lobbying or pivoted from government affairs to, well, the affairs of government.

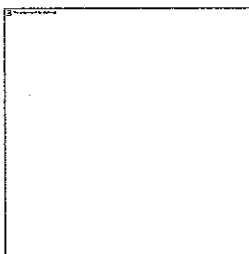
Read on, download, and enjoy.



#### **LEADERSHIP MEDIA:**

##### **Joshua R. "Josh" Earnest**

The former press secretary in the Obama Administration from 2014 until January of this year, made his first appearance as a political analyst on the NBC News "Today" show and on "Morning Joe" on MSNBC. His political career with the Obama team started in 2007, when he became the Iowa Office communications director for the Obama for America presidential campaign... [View Profile →](#)



#### **LEADERSHIP FEDERAL:**

##### **James H. "Jim" Donovan**

On March 14th, President Trump announced his intent to nominate James "Jim" Donovan to be deputy secretary at the United States Department of the Treasury. Donovan is currently a managing director and partner at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia School of Law... [View Profile →](#)



#### **LEADERSHIP COMPANIES:**

##### **Rachana "Ruchi" Bhowmik**

Named vice president of public policy and government affairs for North America at PepsiCo, Inc. on February 27, 2017. Rachana "Ruchi" Bhowmik joined PepsiCo from Ernst & Young (EY), where she worked within the Office of the Global Chairman as director of strategic initiatives. Ms. Bhowmik previously worked at the White House during the Obama administration... [View Profile →](#)

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VCQ1171

**From:** The Buckeye Institute

**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2017 8:08 AM

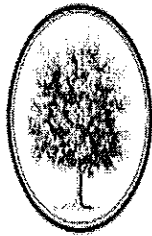
**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** REMINDER MAY 3 EVENT: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE  
ACTION NETWORK**



**THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE**

# **SMART JUSTICE**

## **THE ALL-STAR SERIES**

**You're invited!**

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus  
on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend  
changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these  
days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a  
serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal  
justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

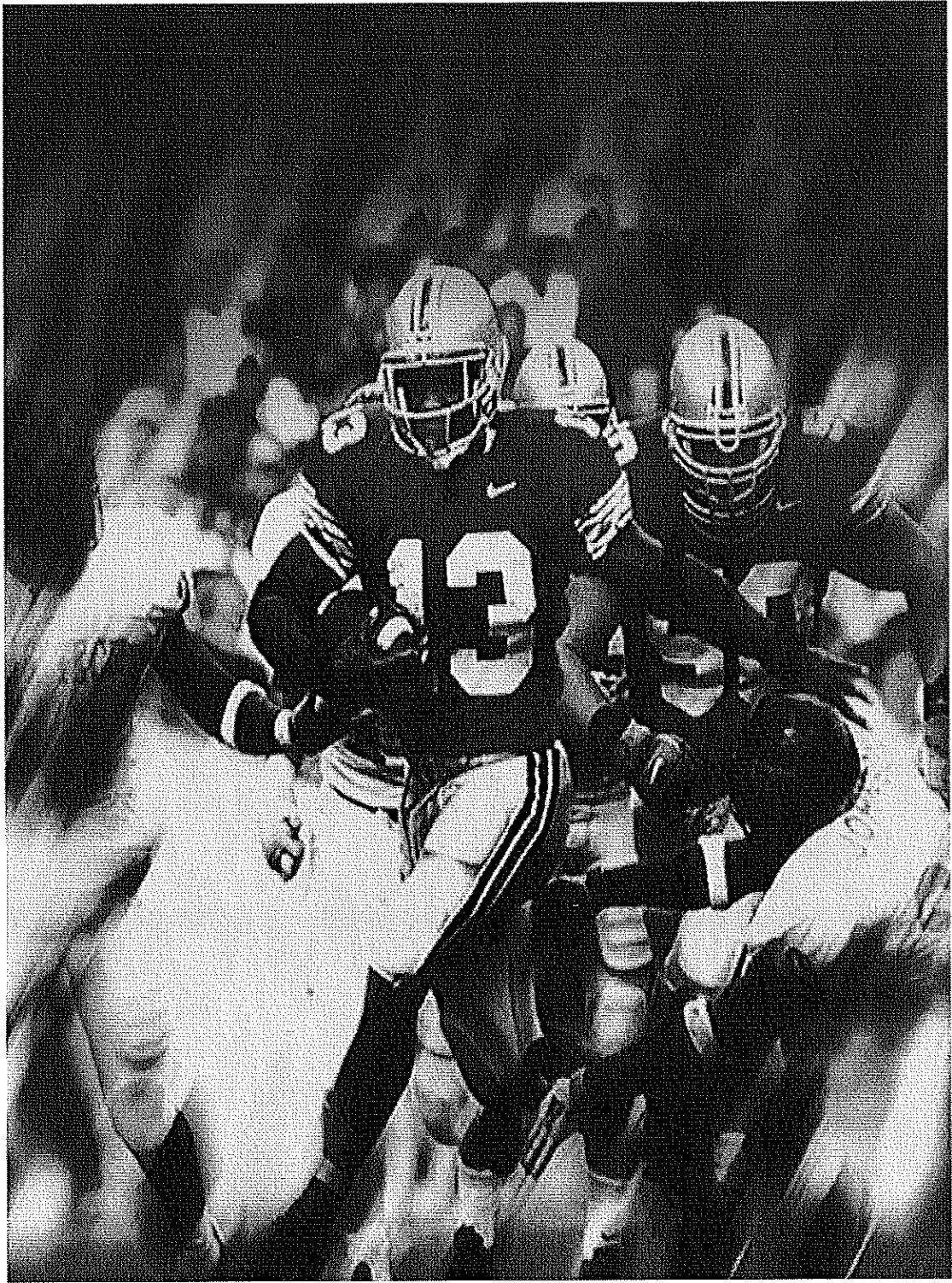
Wednesday, May 3

5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

**REGISTER HERE**





###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Groundwork Ohio

**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2017 11:38 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Advocacy Day Sold Out! Final Agenda Announcement!

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[View this email in your browser](#)

OUR NEWSLETTER

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## **Sold Out Advocacy Day Announces Final Agenda!**

Dear Groundwork Team,

Advocacy Day is finally upon us and we are sold out! I have been overwhelmed by the support and interest in our event and can't wait for you to enjoy the day we have planned. Together we will deliver a powerful, unified message on the importance

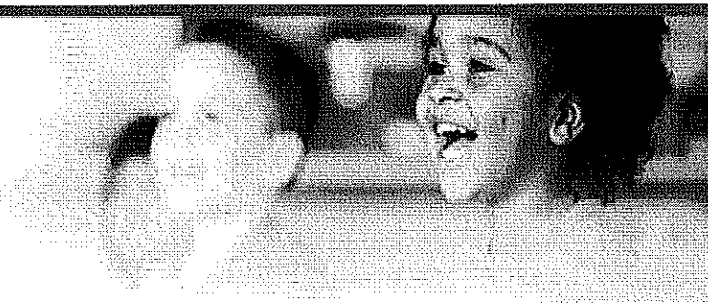
of increased investments in early childhood education to the Statehouse!

= AI am happy to share the final agenda with you as we have been sharing exciting announcements along the way. In addition to our esteemed legislators, we look forward to hearing from Dr. Angel Rhodes from the Office of Governor John Kasich and from our partners at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio.

=A

Check out our Advocacy Day Social Media tips below to follow along with us throughout the day, share our unified message and build relationships with your legislators. If you have any questions or concerns about Advocacy Day, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Lynanne at [lwolf@groundworkohio](mailto:lwolf@groundworkohio). Thank you and see you next week!

Shannon Jones  
Executive Director



## Advocacy Day Social Media

1. **Follow Groundwork:** Connect with us live throughout Advocacy Day and every day by following us on Twitter @GroundworkOhio and Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/GroundworkOhio](http://www.Facebook.com/GroundworkOhio). Share and retweet what you like!
2. **Share Your Experience:** Share your Advocacy Day experience by telling your network what you are doing, quoting speakers that resonate with you, sharing pictures of fellow advocates and legislators throughout the day.
  - Spending the day with fellow early childhood advocates  
@GroundworkOhio #AdvocacyDay2017
  - Talking with @UnitedWayOhio about their commitment to early childhood education @ GroundworkOhio #AdvocacyDay2017  
#LaytheGroundwork
3. **Thank Your Legislators:** Don't forget to thank your legislator on social media and tag them using their Twitter handle (we will provide this to you for easy reference). For example:

- TY @OhioRepSmith for your leadership on early childhood education. #LaytheGroundwork #AdvocacyDay2017 @GroundworkOhio
- TY @peggylehner for being a champion for increased investments in early childhood education #LaytheGroundwork #AdvocacyDay
- TY @nickieantonio for meeting with your Cleveland early childhood advocates #LaytheGroundwork #AdvocacyDay2017 @GroundworkOhio.

4. **ALWAYS use our hashtags and handle:** We want to unify and elevate the amazing advocacy that you are doing around the state of Ohio. Help us keep track and promote your work by including the following hashtags and handle in your social media posts.

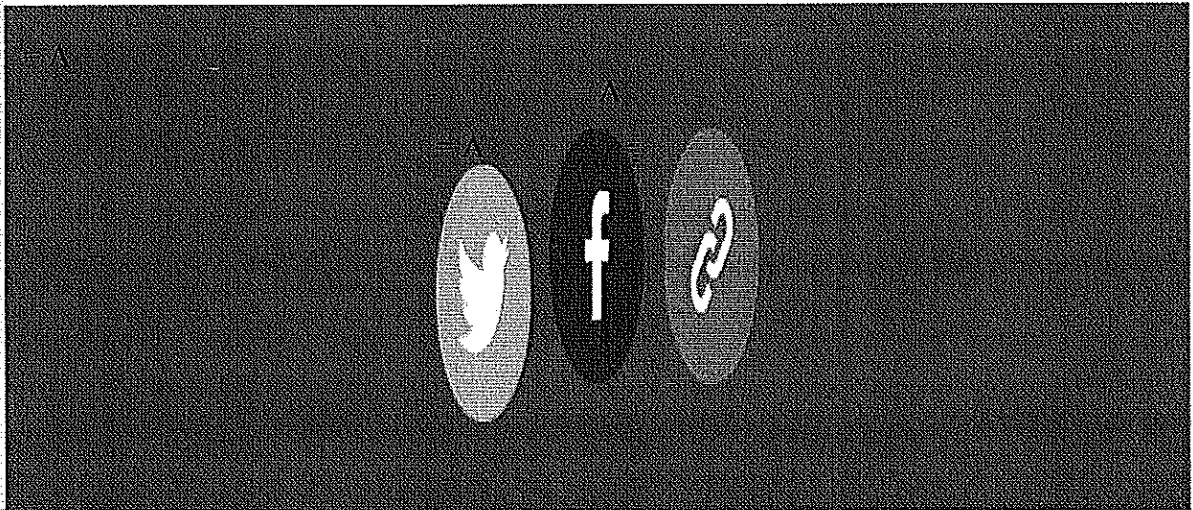
- #LaytheGroundwork
- #AdvocacyDay2017
- @GroundworkOhio

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**From:** JOE BIALEK

**Sent:** Sunday, May 21, 2017 6:22 PM

**To:** Rep17; Rep98; Rep33; Rep67; Rep95; Rep19; Rep36; Rep25; Rep74; Rep10; Rep88; Rep97; Rep31; Rep53; Rep32; Rep50; Rep91; Rep82; Rep56; Rep70; Rep16; Rep22; Rep47; Rep57; Rep86; Rep66; Rep34; Rep39; Rep92; Rep63; Rep35; Rep26; Rep20; Rep79; Rep96; Rep09; Rep94; Rep43; Rep41; Rep24; Rep59; Rep12; Rep65; Rep60; Rep99; Rep28; Rep75; Rep84; Rep08; Rep48; Rep18; Rep37; Rep72; Rep23; Rep29; Rep52; Rep38; Rep02; Rep06; Rep14; Rep40; Rep64; Rep46; Rep58; Rep44; Rep21; Rep55; Rep15; Rep13; Rep85; Niraj Antani; Rep62; Rep54; Rep68; Rep73; Rep81; Rep04; Rep83; Rep78; Rep61; Rep93; Rep76; Rep71; Rep01; Rep11; Rep80; Rep69; Rep89; Rep45; Rep90; Rep03; Rep07; Rep49; Rep05; Rep77; Rep27; Rep51; Rep87; Rep30

**Subject:** Fw: Letter to the Editor--Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's intemperate words about Zack Reed's "pimping" are telling, and wrong: editorial

FYI...

**From:** JOE BIALEK

**Sent:** Sunday, May 21, 2017 6:13 PM

**To:** Cleveland Plain Dealer

**Cc:** Anthony Brancatelli ; Blaine Griffin ; Brian J. Cummins ; Brian Kazy ; Dona Brady ; Edward Rybka ; Frank Jackson ; Jeffrey Johnson ; Kenneth L. Johnson ; Kerry McCormack ; Kevin Conwell ; Kevin Kelley ; Martin J. Keane ; Matt Zone ; Michael D. Polensek ; Phyllis Cleveland ; Terrell H. Pruitt ; TJ Dow ; Zachary Reed ; Anthony T. Hairston ; Armond Budish ; Dale Miller ; Dan Brady ; Jack Schron ; Joseph Nanni ; Matt Carroll ; Michael J. Gallagher ; Nan Baker ; Pernel Jones, Jr. ; Scott Tuma ; Shontel Brown ; Sunny M. Simon ; Yvonne M. Conwell

**Subject:** Letter to the Editor--Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's intemperate words about Zack Reed's "pimping" are telling, and wrong: editorial

[http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/cleveland\\_mayor\\_frank\\_jacksons\\_3.html](http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/cleveland_mayor_frank_jacksons_3.html)

As a follow up to the comment below this issue could very well become the decider for most voters in this election...it is certainly on par with Tom Johnson and the 3 cent fare. For someone who is ordinarily mild mannered the use of the term pimping towards another elected official who is campaigning for his job speaks volumes. It tells me that Mr. Reed's opposition to the dirt bike track has really gotten under the Mayor's skin. The city is going to spend 2.3 million dollars on a dirt bike track for the

express purpose of enticing renegade bikers from violating traffic laws. Perhaps there is worse absurd reasoning but this really takes the cake. Is it any wonder that city government once again reverts to entertainment as the solution to its problems? If nothing else this decision will make the listing on ESPN's all time busts. How pathetic.

-----Original Message-----

From: JOE BIALEK

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 7:58 PM

To: Plain Dealer Forum

Cc: jmorice@cleveland.com ; pastorgibson@elizabethbaptistchurch.net ; bgriffin@city.cleveland.oh.us ; Michael Cox ; Anthony Brancatelli ; Brian J. Cummins ; Brian Kazy ; Dona Brady ; Edward Rybka ; Frank Jackson ; Jeffrey Johnson ; Kenneth L. Johnson ; Kerry McCormack ; Kevin Conwell ; Kevin Kelley ; Mamie J. Mitchell ; Martin J. Keane ; Matt Zone ; Michael D. Polensek ; Phyllis Cleveland ; Terrell H. Pruitt ; TJ Dow ; Zachary Reed ; Anthony T. Hairston ; Armond Budish ; Dale Miller ; Dan Brady ; Jack Schron ; Joseph Nanni ; Matt Carroll ; Michael J. Gallagher ; Nan Baker ; Pernel Jones, Jr. ; Scott Tuma ; Shontel Brown ; Sunny M. Simon ; Yvonne M. Conwell

Subject: Letter to the Editor--Southeast Cleveland residents frustrated by proposed dirt bike track's location

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/05/southeast\\_cleveland\\_residents.html#incart\\_river\\_home\\_pop](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/05/southeast_cleveland_residents.html#incart_river_home_pop)

second verse...same as the first or better yet...well there you go again

Per the article: "People in Garden Valley would rather hear a bike than an Uzi," he said at one point." Wow that sure is a narrow choice of alternatives.

Whatever happened to using public dollars to promote quality of life that everyone benefits from? Why is it that the residents and business owners of Hyacinth always get the shaft. Hasn't there been enough damage done there already under the guise of community development? Maybe the kids

can store their dirt bikes inside all the vacant houses in the neighborhood. Is this proposed dirt bike track part of Mayor Jackson's plan to target \$65 million at neighborhoods? And that's the best he can do for Hyacinth? Scrap this idea immediately and put the people's dollars to better use. After all there's only an infinite number of possibilities...or is there?

Bikes or Uzis ?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmwqnqL3Hbg>

Joe Bialek  
Cleveland, OH

"Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric." Bertrand Russell

**From:** DOYO Live - Digital Marketing + Interactive Design Conference

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 8:02 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Why DOYO Live + Early Bird Ticket Offer Ends Tonight!

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I wanted to reach out to personally invite you to DOYO Live in 2017. I am super excited about the depth of the lineup of our speakers, many have presented at a number of the most prestigious marketing conferences in the country. We'd love for you to sign up today!

We will be action packed with content from our dynamic keynote, Debra Jasper of Mindset Digital, to 15+ breakout sessions, new optional day-1 workshops, an interactive video lounge, networking and more.

Be sure to take full advantage of our early bird ticket pricing of \$150 for our conference only. **This offer will expire today on May 31, 2017**, at midnight, use the promo code: YWRC for additional savings, register today!

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#### **Why Attend DOYO Live:**

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- Social media marketing
- Digital marketing strategy
- Lead generation to grow your business
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- Live streaming strategies to go live on Facebook
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- And more...

"Very impressive what is going on in Youngstown at DOYO Live. The venue, lineup, and event were a first class operation. It is great to see a regional marketing show follow the lead of the Content, Inc. model and provide an event that's helping to revitalize the area. There was a solid group of speakers and I look for this event to continue to grow and inspire marketing professionals in content marketing strategy!" - **Joe Pulizzi, Founder of Content Marketing World, Forbes Top-50 Influencers in Marketing Today, DOYO Live 2016 Keynote.**

"DOYO Live exceeded our expectations for educating and inspiring our digital efforts. Organizations looking to master the art of developing meaningful relationships with their customers through digital strategy will find the collection of talented speakers and inspiring sessions a game changer. We are privileged to support this year's event." - **Esther Buschau, Cafaro Company, Director of Corporate Marketing**

Be sure to grab you DOYO Live early bird ticket today!

Thanks and Looking Forward to Seeing You at DOYO Live 2017!

Dennis

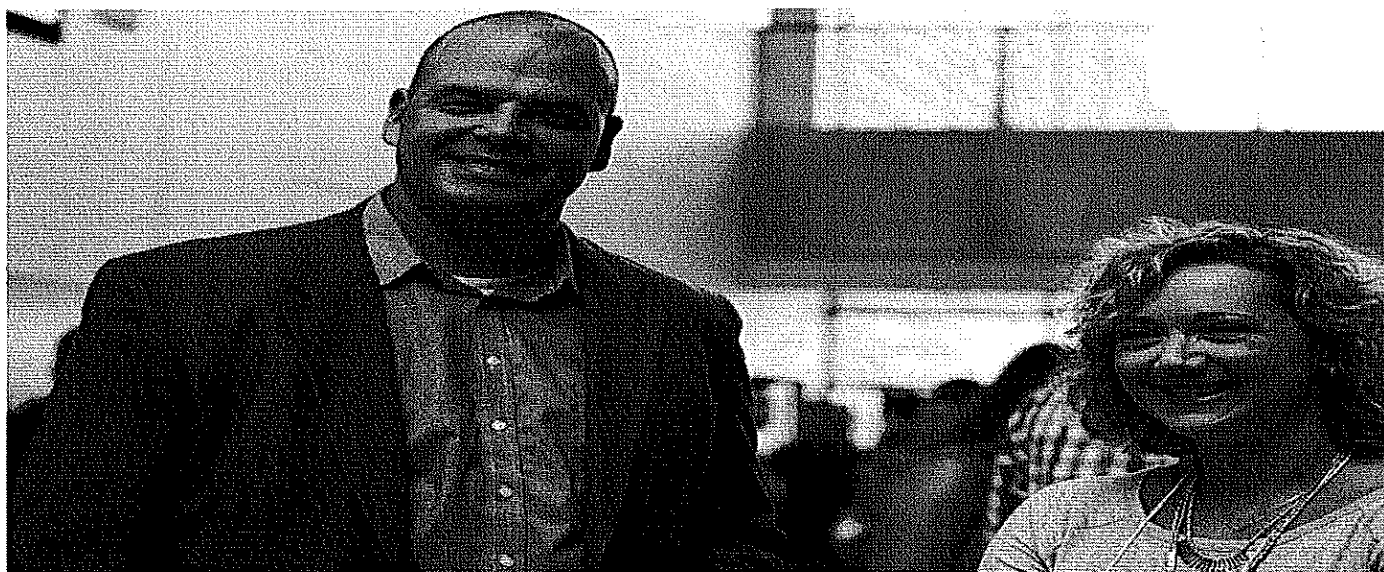
Dennis Schiraldi

DOYO Live, Founder

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We are dedicated to the ongoing professional development of marketing, business, sales and design professionals. Also, our goal is to use our event as a way to help stimulate the economy of Youngstown, Ohio and we are purpose driven.

Meaning we want to give back to the community with our time and financial contributions. One of those entities that we support is The Rich Center for Autism.

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**From:** Steve Fritsch

**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2017 9:05 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Updates: Shale Report, Economic Development Wisdom, Additive Manufacturing

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Hi R,

Greetings! Here are some updates and opportunities to support your business development and network connectivity!

**Innovation, Workforce & Real Estate:** In partnership with the Northeast Ohio Development Exchange (NODE), Team NEO is participating in a half-day "familiarization tour" for our county and community peers to learn more about the region's innovation, workforce and real estate assets, as well as to give a glimpse into how we sell the region to prospects and site selection consultants. Sponsored by Juniper CRE Solutions, this is another great opportunity to meet and network with NEO economic development peers. Be sure to mark June 14th on your calendars! Registration information is available here.

**Shale Investment Report:** This report presents findings from an investigation into shale-related investment in Ohio from 2011 through the summer of 2016. The report

looks at upstream, midstream and downstream investments. The downturn in oil and gas prices in late 2014 that continued through 2016 has constrained upstream investment in Ohio, as drilling slowed. However, low hydrocarbon prices have increased a nationwide appetite for natural gas and natural gas liquids. This has led to a continuation of midstream and downstream investment. [Check out the report here.](#)

**Economic Developer's Wisdom Well:** Many Northeast Ohio economic development peers have had the pleasure of getting to know Don Iannone in the various roles he has played throughout the region. I invite you to partake in his blog, [\*The Economic Developer's Wisdom Well\*](#), "A place for inspiration and courage to practice economic development with wisdom."

**Workforce Trends and Reports:** We recently added a new [workforce section](#) to our [Partner Portal](#), which we will use to share relevant workforce-related trends and reports. If you visit the section today, you will see our report titled "Aligning Opportunities in Northeast Ohio" featured there. The report is designed to serve as an aid in understanding and addressing the demand and supply imbalance in the region's workforce. For additional information about the report, please feel free to connect with Jacob Duritsky at [jduritsky@teamneo.org](mailto:jduritsky@teamneo.org) or 216.363.5424.

**NEO Additive Manufacturing Cluster Q2 Meeting:** Companies interested in additive manufacturing (AM) are invited to participate in the next [NEO AM Cluster meeting](#), taking place June 8 at the Brecksville Community Center. During the half-day event, attendees will learn about tooling applications for AM while hearing from a panel of experts. I encourage you to share this event with companies in your footprint. For additional information and to register, click [here](#).

Have a nice weekend,

Steve

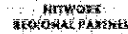
**Steve Fritsch** | Director, Network Engagement | Team Northeast Ohio

1111 Superior Avenue, Suite 1600 | Cleveland, OH 44114

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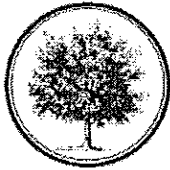
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**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 1, 2017 12:30 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Buckeye Institute: Kasich Signs Ohio's Budget, Vetoes Critical Medicaid Reform

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 1, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or [Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org](mailto:Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org)

## **Buckeye Institute: Kasich Signs Ohio's Budget, Vetoes Critical Medicaid Reform**

**Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute** issued the following statement on Governor John Kasich's decision to veto the Medicaid freeze.

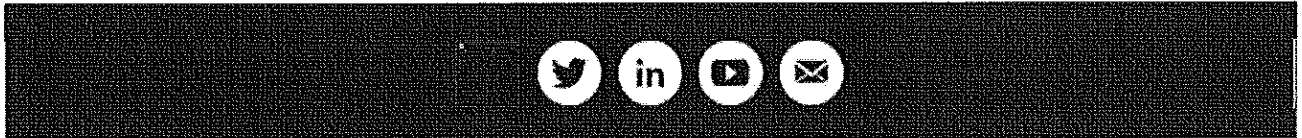
"We are disappointed that Governor Kasich did not adhere to the will of the General Assembly in putting guard rails on the Medicaid expansion. His veto of the freeze guarantees that this 'Pac-Man' of the state budget will continue to crowd out other critical spending priorities while not ensuring those enrolled in Medicaid are getting access to the best health care."

###

*Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.*

*The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.*

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
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**From:** Groundwork Ohio  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2017 4:12 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education In the News

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**US News & World Report:**  
[Education Inequality Starts Early](#)  
[Pre-K Isn't Just Academic](#)

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**The Columbus Dispatch:**  
[Legislator-led panel examines difficulty of educating poor youth](#)

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## The Cincinnati Enquirer:

[Preschool Expansion Just the Beginning for CPS](#)

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## The News & Observer:

[NC's prekindergarten efforts shown to help children for years, report card finds](#)

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## WTVY.com:

[Governor Ivey announces "Strong Start, Strong Finish" education initiative](#)

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## Dayton Daily News:

[Preschool Advocates Say State Funding Cut Tolerable](#)

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## American Enterprise Institute:

[What does early childhood have to do with America's workforce problem? A lot, actually](#)

[The Importance of the First Five Years: Katharine Stevens' testimony on Capitol Hill](#)

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## The 74:

[Intensive Preschool Programs Can Yield Massive Returns, Especially for Boys, Nobel](#)

[Laureate's Study Shows](#)

[Shift From Pre-K to Kindergarten "Fraught With Stress and Uncertainty"; Report Points to 4](#)

[Model States Easing the Transition](#)

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## Education Week:

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce Makes Business Case for High-Quality Child Care](#)

[Oral Storytelling Helps Black Boys, Girls at Different Stages, Study Finds](#)

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NPR:

Someone New for Baby to Chew On: Rocket Science and Quantum Physics

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The New York Times:

How Severe, Ongoing Stress Can Affect a Child's Brain

How Home Visits By Nurses Help Mothers and Children, Especially Boys

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WAMC Northeast Public Radio:

Advocates Praise Early Education Boost in Massachusetts Budget

Early Education Advocates Host Business Leaders

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Model D Media:

The High Cost of Limited Access to Early Childhood Education in Detroit

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New Hampshire Public Radio:

Gov. Sununu To Sign Full-Day Kindergarten Funding Bill

---

WXXI News:

Gov. Cuomo announces \$4.75 million to expand early childhood initiatives in Rochester

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The Herald Sun:

NC's Prekindergarten Efforts Shown to Help Children for Years, Report Card Finds = A

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Education Commission of the States:

Achievement Gap: Keeping equity front and center

---

## Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness:

The Silent Crisis: Student Homelessness on the 30th Anniversary of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

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## National Center for Education Statistics:

Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups

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## Inside Higher Ed:

Let's Make Child Care More Accessible

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## The Hechinger Report:

African American Boys Who Tell Better Stories as Preschoolers May Learn to Read More Quickly

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## The Topeka Capital-Journal:

Editorial: Narrowing the achievement gap

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## Center for American Progress:

= AEarly Learning in the United States: 2017

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## Burlington Free Press:

Opinion: Child care affects everyone

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## Chalkbeat:

Colorado highlighted in national report easing transition from preschool to kindergarten

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## The Huffington Post:

[The Global Search for Education: A New Look at Early Childhood Education Around the World](#)

[Advocates for Children and Families Launch Major Campaign to Preserve Evidence-Based Home Visiting= A](#)

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## Brookings Institute:

[Building better preschools-but for which kids?](#)

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## Education Week:

[Study Looks at Link Between Readiness, Post-Recession Rise in Poverty](#)

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## New America:

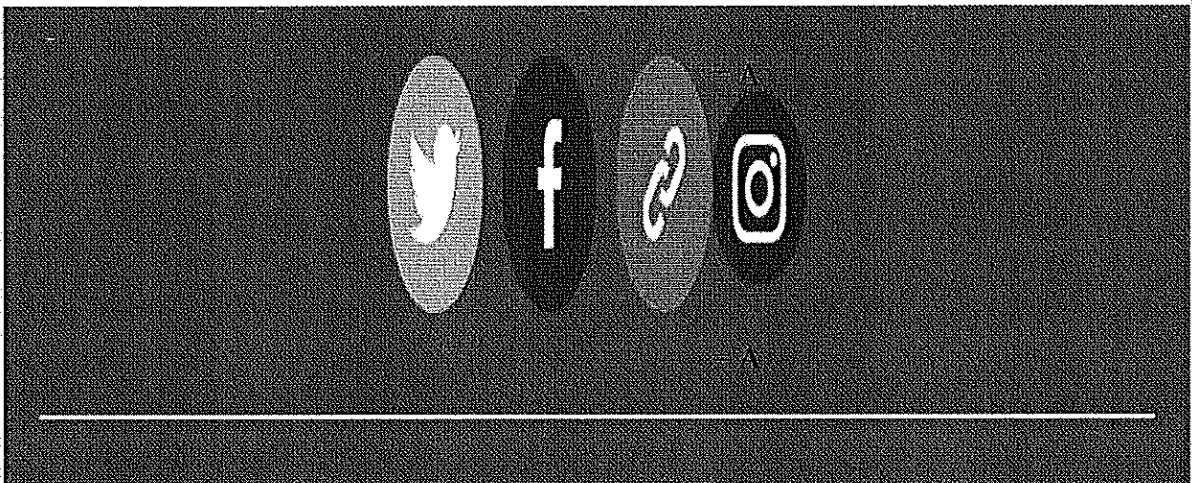
[Using ESSA to Build a Birth-to-Third Grade Early Education Continuum](#)

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**Office of Government Affairs**  
The Ohio State University



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# OHIO STATE vs UNLV Tailgate

**Saturday, September 23**

**2.5 hours prior to kickoff**

**Richard C. Larkins Plaza**

Located between RPAC & McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion



**Special Guests**

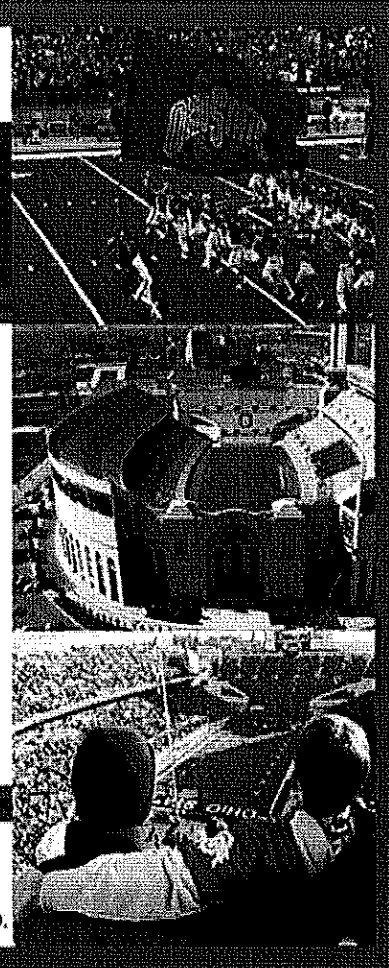
**Gene Smith**

**Ohio State Spirit Squad**

RSVPs are appreciated but not required.

A limited number of game tickets are available for purchase.

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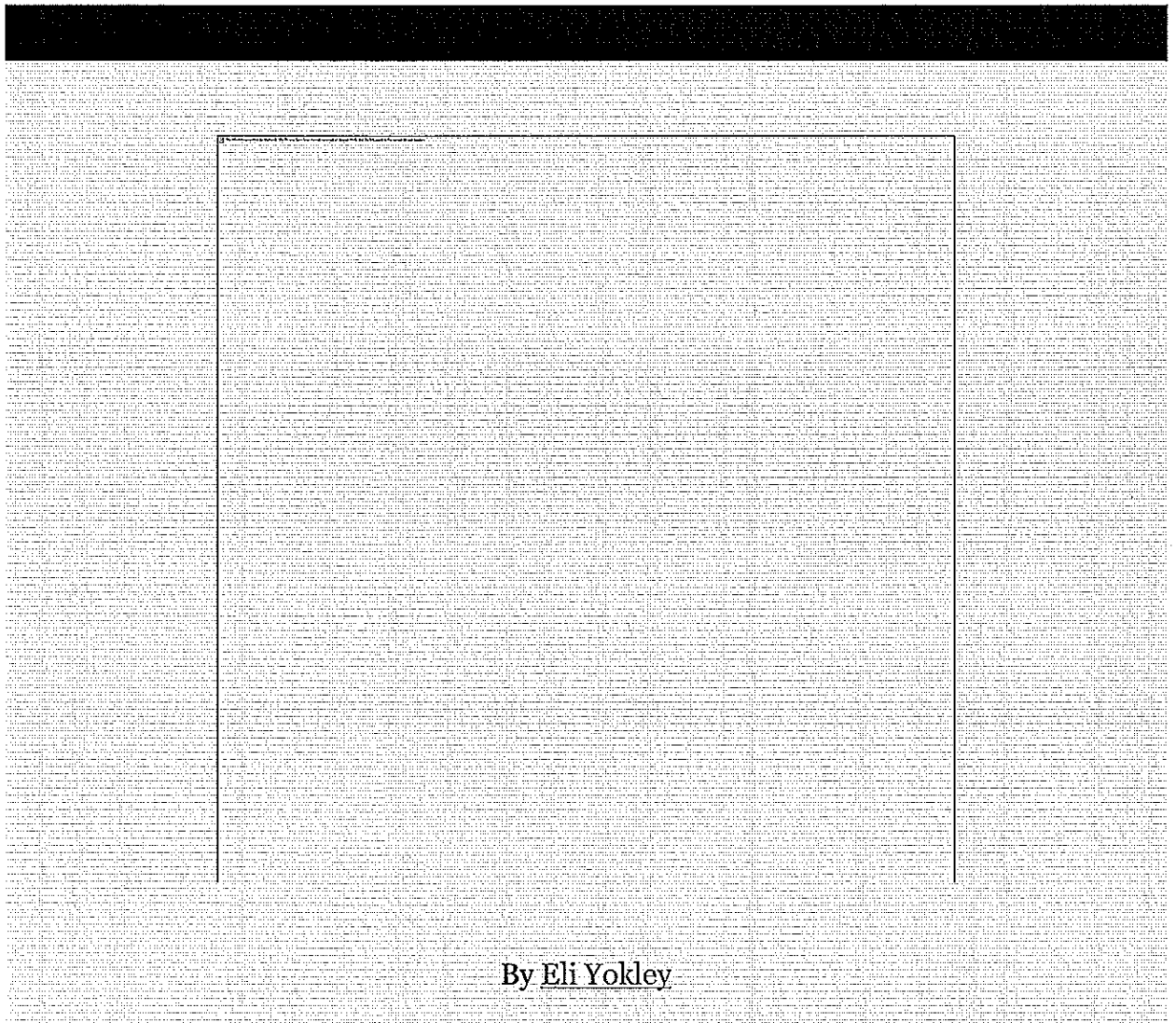
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**From:** Morning Consult  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Washington, Presented by the Electronic Payments Coalition: White House to Issue Guidance on Military Transgender Ban  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

## Top Stories

- The White House is expected to issue guidance to the Defense Department in the coming days regarding how to implement President Donald Trump's proposed ban on transgender people in the military. An internal memo directs the Pentagon to stop admitting transgender people and to stop paying for medical treatment related to gender transitions. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) pushed back on media reports of a divide between him and Trump. He issued a statement saying they're both "committed to advancing our shared agenda together." ([The Hill](#))
- A New Jersey judge denied requests by Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez's lawyers to either delay his federal corruption trial or explain to a jury his absence if it interferes with Senate votes. Oral arguments are scheduled for Sept. 6, the day after Congress returns from its August recess. ([The New York Times](#))
- House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) visited an Intel facility in Oregon to tout the House GOP's tax plan. He said he was "very confident" lawmakers would pass the proposal before the end of the year. ([CNBC](#))

## Chart Review

**In global popularity contest, U.S. and China - not Russia - vie for first**  
**Pew Research Center**

## Depending on the country, U.S. or China is the more favored nation

Favorable view of \_\_\_\_

	Russia	U.S.	China	China-U.S. diff
Canada	27	43	48	5
<b>Europe</b>				
Netherlands	15	37	49	12
Spain	27	31	43	12
Greece	64	43	50	7
Germany	27	35	34	-1
France	36	46	44	-2
Sweden	18	45	41	-4
UK	26	50	45	-5
Hungary	39	63	38	-25
Italy	35	61	31	-30
Poland	21	73	42	-31
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>				
Australia	37	48	64	16
Indonesia	36	48	55	7
India	47	49	26	-23
Philippines	55	78	55	-23
South Korea	36	75	34	-41
Japan	26	57	13	-44
Vietnam	83	84	10	-74
<b>Middle East</b>				
Tunisia	39	27	63	36
Lebanon	47	34	63	29
Jordan	5	15	35	20
Turkey	32	18	33	15
Israel	35	81	53	-28
<b>Africa</b>				
Senegal	34	55	64	9
Tanzania	45	57	63	6
Nigeria	45	69	72	3
Kenya	27	54	54	0
South Africa	28	53	45	-8
Ghana	33	59	49	-10
<b>Latin America</b>				
Mexico	32	30	43	13
Chile	34	39	51	12
Peru	41	51	61	10
Argentina	27	35	41	6
Venezuela	38	47	52	5
Brazil	35	50	52	2
Colombia	32	51	43	-8

## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### THURSDAY

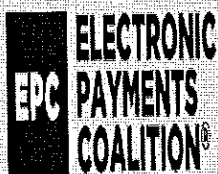
Heritage Foundation event: Protecting Public Employees' First Amendment Rights

12  
p.m.

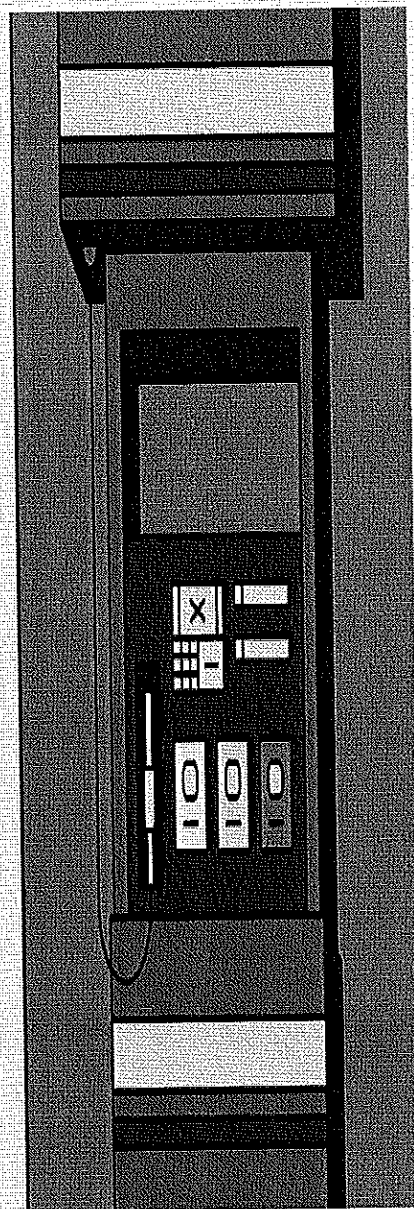
### FRIDAY

No events scheduled

**\$2 BILLION!** That's how much theft  
from gas station skimmers cost consumers in 2014.  
The Electronic Payments Coalition (EPC) has tips  
to help you protect yourself when you're filling up  
at home or traveling far and wide this summer.



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## **General**

### **Trump blames GOP leaders for debt ceiling 'mess'** **Rebecca Savransky, The Hill**

President Trump said Thursday he asked GOP leaders in Congress to tie legislation raising the debt ceiling to a Veterans Affairs bill, and that their failure has led to a political mess surrounding the issues. Trump targeted Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) in the tweet.

### **Coal, Nuclear Power Would Benefit From Energy Department's Power Grid Study** **Jeff Brady, NPR News**

The U.S. power grid could become less reliable if too much electricity comes from renewable energy and natural gas, according to a study from the Department of Energy. But not everyone is buying it.

### **With Chinese Support, Pakistan Can Ignore Trump on Afghanistan** **Iain Marlow and Ismail Dilawar, Bloomberg**

A key plank of U.S. President Donald Trump's new strategy to turn around the 16-year conflict in Afghanistan will probably falter for a reason few of his voters would realize: China. On Monday, Trump outlined an open-ended commitment to the conflict in Afghanistan that pledged more troops and diplomatic outreach to the Taliban.

### **White nationalists may hold 'flash' rally in Lexington, making counter-protests harder** **Bill Estep and Beth Musgrave, The Lexington Herald-Leader**

White nationalist groups may hold a flash demonstration in Lexington to protest moving two Confederate statues from the lawn of the former Fayette County courthouse instead of a publicly-announced rally,



according to an organizer. Matthew Heimbach, chairman of a white-nationalist group called the Traditionalist Worker Party, told the Herald-Leader last week that his group and others were planning a rally in Lexington to oppose the removal of statues in downtown Lexington.

## **Presidential**

### **White House Sets Rules for Military Transgender Ban** **Gordon Lubold, The Wall Street Journal**

The White House is expected to send guidance to the Pentagon in coming days on how to implement a new administration ban on transgender people in the military, issuing a policy that will allow Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to consider a service member's ability to deploy in deciding whether to kick them out of the military. The White House memo also directs the Pentagon to deny admittance to transgender individuals and to stop spending on medical treatment regimens for those currently serving, according to U.S. officials familiar with the document.

### **Pence: U.S. to use 'economic and diplomatic power' to restore democracy in Venezuela** **Sergio Bustos, Politico**

Vice President Mike Pence made a quick trip Wednesday afternoon to this Miami suburb, home to the nation's largest Venezuelan community, to reinforce and reiterate the Trump administration's commitment and support for those fighting against the authoritarian government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. "The U.S will continue to bring the full measure of U.S. economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored in Venezuela," Pence told a cheering crowd of hundreds of people at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

## **Rabbis Protest Trump's Comments by Boycotting Conference Call**

**Alexander Burns, The New York Times**

For years, the presidential conference calls were a nonpartisan holiday tradition: President Barack Obama would speak by phone with hundreds of rabbis in advance of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, in what participants described as a meeting of minds, largely free of raw politics. But that emerging tradition was thrown into jeopardy on Wednesday, in a sign of the still-intensifying backlash against President Trump's response to the violence this month in Charlottesville, Va.

## **Trump's whiplash: Three personas in three speeches, but the same president**

**Philip Rucker, The Washington Post**

In the span of 48 hours this week, President Trump has boomeranged among three roles: the commander in chief, the divider and the uniter. Like a contestant on one of his reality TV shows, Trump has taken on contrasting personas, showcasing divergent traits with flourishes seemingly to survive another day of his beleaguered presidency.

## **Again breaking ground, Trump takes the permanent campaign to new heights**

**Mark Z. Barabak, The Los Angeles Times**

The permanent campaign has been a fixture of the modern presidency for more than a generation - ever since Jimmy Carter, eyeing reelection, shucked his suit coat in favor of a more casual cardigan. But President Trump, in yet another break with convention, has scaled new heights when it comes to politicizing and, especially, personalizing the workings of the White House.

## **General Kelly Commands the White House, But He Can't Control Trump**

**Margaret Talev and Jennifer Jacobs, Bloomberg**

Since retired Marine Corps General John Kelly started as White House chief of staff last month, President Donald Trump has added a routine caveat before approving proposals advisers place before him: Check with "The General" before moving ahead. It's a marked departure from Trump's instinct to manage around Kelly's predecessor, Reince Priebus.

## **Senate**

### **McConnell pushes back on reports of rift with Trump: We have shared agenda**

**Jordain Carney, The Hill**

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is pushing back against reports of a rift with President Trump, saying Wednesday he and the president have shared priorities. "We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we are committed to advancing our shared agenda together and anyone who suggests otherwise is clearly not part of the conversation," McConnell said in a statement.

### **Menendez Is Denied Reprieve From Corruption Trial to Cast Senate Votes**

**Nick Corasaniti, The New York Times**

When the 115th Congress returns to Washington on Sept. 5, Senator Robert Menendez will likely be absent: His federal corruption trial is set to begin here the following day. But when the Senate moves to vote on major bills during the fall - including on the debt ceiling, his plan to overhaul the National Flood Insurance Program, even an unpredictable major foreign policy decision - Senator Menendez will be caught between

his desire to remain in front of jurors and his congressional obligation to fight for his constituents.

### **Rubio laments congressional failures, says white supremacists 'threat' to GOP**

**Matt Dixon, Politico**

Sen. Marco Rubio laid out what he sees as congressional failures and where he thinks the Republican Party should go during a campaign-style speech Tuesday night before the Seminole County Republican Party. The Miami Republican says high profile legislative failures, including the failed repeal of Obamacare, are bad for the future of the party, which made some high-profile promises during the 2016 campaign cycle.

### **McCaskill Pushes Pentagon for Answers on Improper Payments**

**John M. Donnelly, Roll Call**

Sen. Claire McCaskill wants some answers from Defense Secretary James Mattis on the Pentagon's efforts to curb so-called improper payments to contractors and individuals. McCaskill sent Mattis a letter Wednesday seeking an update on reports of inadequate Pentagon compliance with a law that mandates monitoring overpayments and underpayments, which totaled \$1.2 trillion across the federal government between 2003 and 2016, according to the Government Accountability Office.

### **Democrats Hope for 'Perfect Storm' in Alabama Senate Race**

**Bridget Bowman, Roll Call**

As Republicans gear up for a grueling primary runoff in the Alabama special election Senate race, Democratic candidate Doug Jones has the race to himself. And Democrats see Jones as their best hope for victory in a ruby-red state.